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POLL RESULTS

Do you support the nomination of attorney Ramon Quichocho to be a Superior Court judge?

Yes	55
No	214
Unsure	9
No opinion	7

Sunday, June 2, 2013

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ASIA



The Shangri-La Dialogue

China defends its actions in maritime disputes with its neighbors.

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Anguish from Japan's World War II sex slave legacy remains unsettled.

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LIFE & STYLE



The Joeten Kiyu Public Library celebrates its 20th anniversary.

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'Delivery charge' for Saipan water service eyed. **PAGE 8**
Special short-term contract for Sasamoto OK'd. **PAGE 9**

No split Tinian, Pagan EIS

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There is no plan to split into two distinct environmental impact statement, or EIS, the proposed use of Tinian and Pagan for live-fire training ranges, according to a visiting U.S. Marine Forces Pacific official Friday.

At the same time, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific executive director Craig B. Whelden said the CNMI government's proposed Covenant Section 902 talks won't

change the U.S. military's ongoing compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act, or NEPA, process.

The U.S. military's proposed use of

» 'Proposed 902 talks won't change NEPA process'

Pagan for live-fire training is drawing opposition from different sectors and the CNMI government has asked that the

Pagan proposal be separated from the Tinian plan "to prevent the downfall of one range because of the other."

There is no resistance on the added use of Tinian for military purposes, although there are concerns raised. Some two-thirds of Tinian lands are under lease to the U.S. Department of Defense and they have been used for military training but

See EIS on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Hawaii-based U.S. Marine Forces Pacific executive director Craig B. Whelden, right, calls on acting governor Jude U. Hofsneider on Capitol Hill Friday afternoon.

On the hunt for comets and sunspots



Dr. Norman Butler explains how he uses his refractor telescope in his hunt for comets.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By REINA PEREZ
STUDENT REPORTER

At midnight, when most people are already asleep, Dr. Norman Butler would

wake up, make himself some coffee, climb up to the rooftop deck of his San Antonio apartment villa, and settle down for what has become his nighttime routine: comet hunting.

MORE INSIDE

- NMI ranks 7th in protecting coasts. **PAGE 2**
- Online petition vs Quichocho. **PAGE 5**
- Leau admits paying cash, checks for sex. **PAGE 7**



Using a refractor telescope that can see stars up to the tenth magnitude, Butler methodically observes the night skies for that telltale sign that he has stumbled onto something new. (Without a telescope, most stars are seen up to the sixth magnitude.) An atlas guides him in identifying comets and other celestial bodies that have already been found and tagged.

A retired astronomer and astronomical engineer with the Haleakala Observatory in Maui, Butler says that comet hunting is "33 1/3 percent instrument, 33 1/3 percent diligence, and 33 1/3 percent luck."

It doesn't hurt that Saipan is a few See COMETS on Page 4

» **2 did so on Friday, 1 more today**

Scholarship Board members asked to resign

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

As acting governor, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider asked four members of the CNMI Scholarship Board Friday afternoon to turn in their courtesy resignations, catching the members by surprise,

Saipan Tribune learned. Two of them nevertheless complied before close of office hours on Friday.

A third one said yesterday she will submit her letter today, and it will be addressed to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who returned yesterday to the CNMI after an official trip to Alaska.

Hofsneider sent separate letters to CNMI Scholarship Board members Kodep Oogumoro-Uludong,

See SCHOLARSHIP on Page 4



CNMI ranks 7th in protecting coastal resources

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI ranks seventh among 28 coastal states and territories for safeguarding marine ecosystems through the use of no-take reserves, according to a recent Marine Conservation Institute and Mission Blue report.

Hawaii tops the list with 23 percent of its water set aside as no-take zones, where fish and other elements of the marine ecosystem can flourish.

The CNMI, meanwhile, sets aside 0.21 percent of its waters as areas where fishing and other resource taking is prohibited.

"It is critical that we continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our five reserves—Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve, Forbidden Island Marine Sanctuary, Bird Island Marine Sanc-

Santuary, Bird Island Marine Sanctuary, Tinian Marine Reserve, and the Mañagaha Marine Conservation Area—and consider what more we can do to protect the resources there

that are so important both to our cultural heritage and today's economy," Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said.

The CNMI's 0.21 percent is still far from ideal compared to Hawaii (23 percent), California (9 percent), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (6 percent), which the report says are "the leaders in strongly protecting their marine waters."

Sablan said in January, the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Re-

sources used part of the \$220,000 earmark that the delegate obtained in fiscal year 2010 for marine education and outreach to hold a Marine Protected

Areas Workshop. "Information Systems - MCI" at 1

"Information from the MCI study and the DLNR workshop can give stakeholders in the Marianas ideas on how we can further protect our cultural and economic interests by improving the health of our ocean," Sablan added.

The full report is available at http://www.seastates.us/2013/SeaStates_

ON THE NET

http://www.seastates.us/2013/SeaStates_US_2013_Report.pdf

US 2013 Report.pdf

"10 other states and territories—Florida, Puerto Rico, Oregon, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Washington, American Samoa, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maine—have strongly protected at least tiny marine areas. Fifteen states, including Alaska, Alabama, Georgia and Rhode Island haven't yet created any no-take marine reserves. By this key measure, they're the bottom of the pack," the report says.

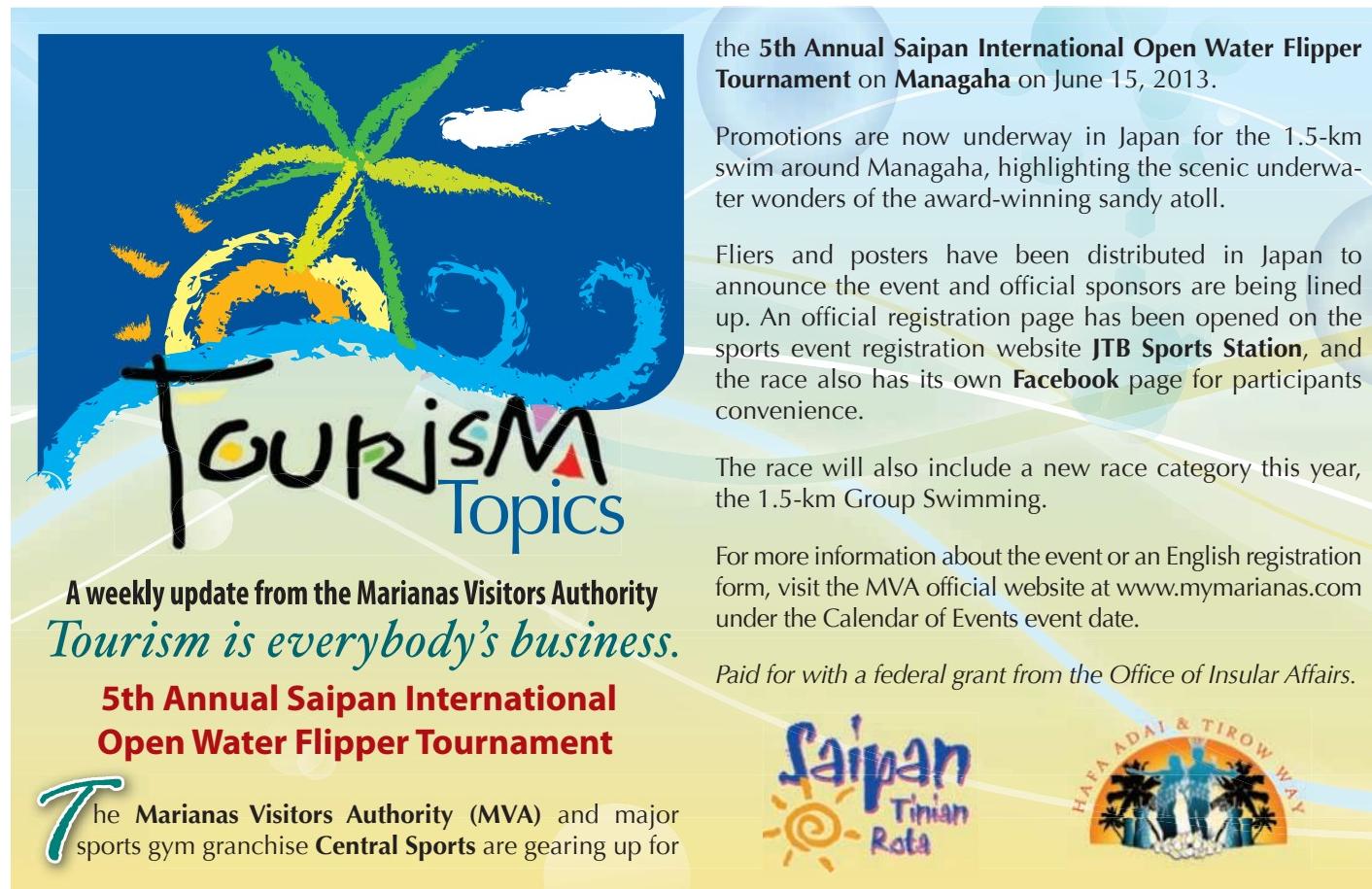
the Pacific and spark discussion about environmental protection, methods and advancements.”

The PIEC coincides with Guam EPA's 40th anniversary celebrations throughout 2013.

Registration for the PIEC is open to the public and costs \$40. For more information about how to register visit www.re

gonline.com/PIEC2013. The conference registration site includes information about field trips, educational opportunities and pre-conference events like the Coral Reef Symposium.

For more information about the topics and agenda items scheduled for the PIEC, visit epa.guam.gov. **(PR)**



Local

5 new laws on scholarship, cemeteries, renaming building

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

As acting governor Friday, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider signed into law five bills that changes a CNMI Scholarship rule, renames a government building on Tinian, authorizes satellite veterans cemeteries on Tinian and Rota, designates certain investigators as law enforcement officers, and authorizes active duty U.S. military personnel outside the CNMI to maintain or renew their vehicle registration on the islands.

Hofsneider signed three laws during a news briefing on Friday morning, in the presence of Senate and House members.

Saipan Tribune later learned that Hofsneider signed two additional bills after office hours on Friday.

Of the five bills signed, one originated from the House and four from the Senate.

These were the first bills that Hofsneider signed into law as acting governor.

"It's a privilege that I'm able to dispose of a very crucial legislation... It feels good and I'm glad that I'm able to make a difference by signing these, making a difference in the com-

munity and some of the policies that have been addressed," he told reporters.

Hofsneider also introduced Friday morning his newly hired legal counsel, Wesley Bogdan, who has been in the CNMI for quite a while now.

The then acting governor also announced the hiring of Jose P. Mafnas as coordinator for the Military Integration Management Committee effective May 27.

At a briefing, Hofsneider signed Sen. Pete Reyes' (IR-

Saipan) Senate Bill 18-24 into Public Law 18-6, allowing students pursuing college education to avail of scholarships even if they are not going to attend Northern Marianas College but other colleges and universities in the U.S. mainland for example.

The new law repeals the rule that required attendance at NMC in order for new applicants to avail of Educational Assistance program funding.

"This administration believes it must do all it can to expand—

not restrict—all opportunities for our recent high school graduates and new college students to pursue a postsecondary education," Hofsneider said.

He added that signing of SB 18-24 into law is just a small first step in improving the CNMI Scholarship Program.

Hours later, Hofsneider asked for the courtesy resignation of all CNMI Scholarship Board members. Of the four members, two submitted their resignation on Friday afternoon.

Hofsneider also signed Sen. Frank Cruz's (R-Tinian) S.B. 18-1 into Public Law 18-7, renaming the Department of Public Safety building on Tinian the "Gilbert Manglona Taisacan Building," in honor of Taisacan, who was killed in the line of duty as a police officer at the age of 26.

The then acting governor also signed Cruz's other bill, S.B. 18-2, into Public Law 18-8.

This new law amends the Commonwealth Vehicle Code to authorize active U.S. duty military personnel stationed outside the CNMI, in any state or territory, to maintain or renew their vehicle registration in the CNMI. They can now also register a new vehicle in the CNMI by complying with Commonwealth registration requirements or any comparable requirements in the state or territory where they are stationed.

After office hours on Friday, Hofsneider signed two other bills.

He signed another of Cruz's bill, S.B. 18-23, into Public Law 18-9.

The bill, co-sponsored by Sen. Frank Borja, designates investigators and chief investigators from the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Auditor, as law enforcement officers and be afforded the same authority and benefits vested in and afforded to law enforcement officers.

Hofsneider also signed Rep. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) House Bill 18-35 into Public Law 18-10.

The new law establishes satellite veterans cemeteries on Tinian and Rota, which will allow the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office to apply for a Tribal Cemetery Grant to help secure funds to realize its fruition.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos returned to the CNMI yesterday after an official trip to Alaska.



As acting governor Friday, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider signs bills into laws in the presence of Senate and House of Representatives members. He signed three bills during a news briefing, and two more later.

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Saipan lawmakers OK zoning bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a two-day deliberation, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed Friday afternoon a bill amending the Saipan Zoning Law.

House minority leader Richard Seman's (R-Saipan) House

Local Bill 18-10, Draft 6 passed the 21-member delegation by a vote of 17-0 with four absences.

The bill, which has some 170 pages of attachments, went through lengthy discussions that started Thursday morning.

Among the proposed changes to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 is allowing single-

family residences in most zoning districts.

Light retail such as small mom-and-pop grocery stores, bookstores, flower shops, and daycare centers have been permitted in village residential districts or allowed as conditional uses.

"The Zoning Board believes that these changes more accu-

rately reflect the nature of residential living on Saipan than the requirements of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 and encourage more walkable neighborhoods," the bill says.

Apartment buildings less than 48 feet in height will be permitted in village residential areas, while those above 48 feet in height and professional offices will be allowed as conditional uses.

In residential neighborhoods,

fence heights have been raised to 10 feet to allow for greater security for residents, provided that the fence is made of appropriate materials that do not detract from the neighborhood's appearance.

Certain industrial uses including manufacturing, warehousing and junkyards are confined to industrial and mixed commercial districts. They are re-

moved as permitted uses in rural areas. There were a host of other changes proposed.

Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro and Commonwealth Zoning Board vice chair Herman Sablan, along with legal counsel and staffers, were in the House chamber to respond to lawmakers' questions about the proposed changes.

Arrest warrant quashed, summons issued for Blythe

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday vacated the arrest warrant and instead issued a summons for Tinian Dynasty casino manager Tim Blythe, who is charged with conspiring with others to allow gamblers to conduct transactions involving

more than \$10,000 without filing the required paperwork with the U.S. government.

Manglona issued the order at the request of the U.S. government.

Manglona summoned Blythe to appear in court on June 13, 2013.

In the U.S. government's motion to quash, assistant U.S. attorney Marivic P. David said

they were informed that Blythe has retained Mark B. Hanson as his counsel in the case.

David said that Blythe is currently off-island and intends to return to the CNMI and appear for arraignment before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Blythe, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments, Ltd., which owns Tinian Dynasty, and VIP services man-

ager George Que were indicted on one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report and nine counts of causing a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report.

Federal agents arrested Que and executed warrants to seize Tinian Dynasty property and its money in bank accounts in April. Blythe was not arrested as he was off-island at the time.

sion, Hosono and Uludong testified against the passage of SB 18-24. NMC officials also opposed the bill.

SB 18-24 repeals Section 5, Requirement of Attendance at NMC, of the CNMI Scholarship Regulations, so that students pursuing college need not be enrolled at NMC to become eligible for the Educational Assistance Program.

Supporters of the bill said that by repealing this section, it will make available scholarships for new applicants, whether they are enrolled at NMC or any other accredited institution.

It was not known as of yesterday whether the administration has already replaced those Scholarship Board members who already turned in their courtesy resignations.

set for submission of comments on the bill.

However, Hofsneider signed SB 18-24 into Public Law 18-6 Friday morning.

"We were preparing our comment on that bill and then we heard it was signed Friday. We were hoping he would stick to the Monday deadline but he signed it days earlier," Che added.

Hofsneider and his office declined to comment on the matter when asked during the weekend.

During a news briefing on Friday morning wherein he signed the scholarship rule amendment bill, Hofsneider also made no mention of his plan to ask for the Scholarship Board members' courtesy resignation.

During a recent House ses-

ways—unit-level training and combined arms training. And it really is, from our perspective, just one requirement so we have no intention of splitting it out into two separate efforts," Whelden said.

He recognized, however, that there were issues raised that are unique to Pagan and others that are unique to Tinian.

The CNMI government listed specific "significant impacts" posed by the military's plans on the CNMI's population, environment, resources, tourism and commerce, airspace, and general way of life, among other things.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is planning to initiate 902 talks with President Barack Obama, and one of the issues he would like to pursue is the U.S. military's plan to use Pagan and Tinian for training.

Whelden, when asked about the CNMI's plan to use 902 negotiations to talk about military plans on the two islands, said the proposed 902 talks have no relationship with the ongoing EIS or NEPA process.

"We can't change the EIS process through 902 negotiations. We're going to follow the law the way the law tells us we

have to do and it's a three-year journey. There are certain steps and we have rules to abide by. We can't decide prematurely on things that can't be determined until the end. What I'm trying to say, though, is that EIS is being undertaken under an existing U.S. law, NEPA, and I don't see us diverting from that so is there a relationship between 902 and NEPA? I don't see one," Whelden said.

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the U.S. allows for periodic consultations between the Commonwealth and federal governments "on all matters affecting the relationship between them."

Hofsneider, when asked for comment hours prior to his meeting with Whelden, declined to elaborate on matters he would be raising with Whelden other than saying the CNMI will continue to raise issues on the Tinian and Pagan EIS.

"This is a big undertaking," Hofsneider said.

When asked whether reiterating the request to split the Tinian and Pagan EIS into two will be among those, he said, "That's probably one of those...we will continue expounding on that request."

SCHOLARSHIP

From Page 1

Carol Hosono, Chris Concepcion, and Jacqueline Che Friday afternoon.

That was only a few hours after he signed into law a Senate bill amending Section 5 of the CNMI Scholarship Regulations, a bill that board members opposed during a recent House session. *See story on Page 3*

Section 5 of the CNMI Scholarship Regulations require that a new applicant beginning in the fall of 2012 will only receive financial assistance if the applicant is either enrolled at Northern Marianas College or at another accredited institution, and such applicant has already obtained an associate degree.

Hosono and Concepcion turned in their courtesy resignation letters on Friday afternoon, multiple sources confirmed during the weekend.

Che, on the other hand, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon that Hofsneider's letter came as a "surprise" and with "poor timing."

"The letter was given to us two hours before the close of office on Friday. It came as a surprise. It was poor timing. I will be submitting my courtesy resignation to Governor Inos [Monday]," Che said in a phone interview.

Che said the Scholarship Board was preparing a formal comment on Senate Bill 18-24, and they were supposed to turn in that comment letter to the administration today, the deadline

for the Scholarship Board members' courtesy resignation.

During a recent House ses-

ways—unit-level training and combined arms training. And it really is, from our perspective, just one requirement so we have no intention of splitting it out into two separate efforts," Whelden said.

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"We can't change the EIS process through 902 negotiations. We're going to follow the law the way the law tells us we

EIS

From Page 1

not anything involving live-fire training that is now being proposed.

Whelden, whose office is out of Camp Smith in Hawaii, said they have received roughly 160 comments on the Tinian/Pagan EIS, a summary of which will be published shortly.

Tinian and Pagan's use will address DoD's unit-level and combine-level training deficiencies in the Western Pacific.

Whelden had a courtesy visit with acting governor Jude U. Hofsneider on Friday afternoon on Capitol Hill.

In an interview after the closed-door meeting, Whelden said he and the acting governor talked about protocol or process of notifying the CNMI government about upcoming visits to the islands of military officers or personnel.

The second matter was to help educate the public about the EIS process, which falls within the NEPA process.

"I've seen some indications of people who are trying to negotiate things now," he said, adding that the NEPA process

follows very strict laws. "We can't decide on things until the end. That's a three-year journey and we've just begun. The Record of Decision on alternatives won't occur until early 2016. And at that time when we make a decision, the decision is a decision to go with a particular alternative. It is not a decision to execute anything. That's when the negotiation, that's when the discussions with the government on how we execute that alternative...would start."

Whelden emphasized that the military is required to "stay within those boundaries"—evaluate different alternatives and take into account what they have learned from the government and the people during the public scoping meetings, among other things.

When asked whether the U.S. military would split into two separate EIS the proposed Tinian and Pagan EIS as the CNMI government had requested, Whelden this is not in the plan.

"We have no plans to do that. We don't have the ability to do that, quite frankly. That would be more expensive, first of all. And we only have one requirement, and the requirement is to train Marines in multiple

ways—unit-level training and combined arms training. And it really is, from our perspective, just one requirement so we have no intention of splitting it out into two separate efforts," Whelden said.

He recognized, however, that there were issues raised that are unique to Pagan and others that are unique to Tinian.

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COMETS

From Page 1

hours ahead of the U.S. mainland. That gives him an early start on the night, which means a slight advantage over his fellow comet hunters in the mainland.

It also helps that most parts of Saipan are not plagued yet with that bane of stargazers—light pollution—affording a sweeping view of the night sky, especially when there is no moon or clouds to interfere with one's view of the Ursa Major or the Southern Cross.

Finding a comet while on Saipan is Butler's ultimate goal. For some two years now, since deciding to retire on the island, he has alternated his nighttime hunt for comets with his daytime observation of sunspots.

"I would really love to see that dream fulfilled, to find a comet on Saipan. Saipan does not have as much light pollution as other places do and has a great blue sky," he said.

A retired astronomer who once taught in a university in Shenzhen, China, Butler found his interest in astronomy early on when Russia launched Sputnik I in the '50s. His imagination fired up, he would try to track Sputnik.

In the 1960s, he joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Guam for two years. It was while in Guam that he bought a telescope and began spending his free weekends looking up at the sky.

After leaving the Navy in 1969, Butler decided to pursue astronomy full-time. He lived in Hawaii for 20 years, working at the Haleakala Observatory in Maui in the 1980s doing research for AVCO Everett Research Laboratory on supermassive black holes and other astronomy projects. From there he went on to teach in China, Shenzhen, handling college and postgraduate classes.

He also used to dabble in building telescopes. In 1981, his first telescope was nationally awarded in Riverside, California. His second one, called the Dob Buster, was his most popular and was featured in *Sky and Telescope* in 2011. His third one, a computerized telescope, won a major award in 2011 and made the cover of *Astronomy and Technology Today*.

Now how did Butler end up on Saipan?

His first visit to the island was in the middle of the '60s, while he was stationed in Guam. He told himself, "Someday, I'll come back to this island."

That he did in 2011, find-

ing his paradise in a San Antonio apartment villa. He said he chose Saipan for comet hunting because of its dark skies, and also because Saipan is a day ahead of his competition.

Butler sleeps from 8pm to midnight. Once midnight hits, he starts his comet hunting and that lasts up to 4am.

"I always feel I'm getting closer to a discovery, searching patiently each night all night long until I can see the sun's twilight glow in the early morning hours," he said.

When asked how he can tell when he finds a comet, Butler explained that if he sees something that looks like a likely candidate, he waits until the following night to see if the object has moved. That movement confirms that it is a comet.

The trick, however, is finding one that hasn't been discovered yet. He compares his find with his charts and consults fellow comet hunters to find out if the one he is tracking has already been discovered or is a new find. Only when he confirms that it is a new one will he inform the Central Bureau of Astronomical Telegrams, which keeps tracks of these things.

It's not only the night sky, though, that fascinates Butler. During daytime, he spends his time watching sunspot activity on the surface of the Sun. These are cool planet-sized areas on the Sun that appear like dark spots.

"It's especially interesting right now because the sun is experiencing its maximum sunspot activity during its 11-year solar cycle. Lots of sunspots are currently present on the sun's surface. Some very large ones can be seen along with many smaller ones, providing an opportunity to monitor their movement as they march across the sun's surface."

Butler uses an eyepiece projection where he projects the sun into a piece of paper attached to a cardboard box—a process that makes the sun seem 45 times closer than it actually is. That makes it easy to see sunspots that are actually larger than the Earth.

When Butler is not on his rooftop looking for comets or outside his apartment looking at the sun, he writes. He is currently working on publishing a book about the beginnings of the universe.

Or he goes to the beach where he relaxes and, what else, looks at the stars.

Online petition vs Quichocho

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An online petition against attorney Ramon Quichocho's nomination as Superior Court associate judge is gaining some traction.

As of 5pm yesterday, the online petition has already received 70 signatures. The petition's goal is to obtain 300 signatures.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Quichocho yesterday but there was no reply as of press time.

One petitioner noted that there are simply too many issues with Quichocho and that surely there are a number of other lawyers qualified for consideration for this important position.

"Also I am personally concerned of how the investors and other business people will view such a controversial figure, who has a number of ethical issues plus a less than acceptable review from the NMI Bar," the petitioner said.

An anonymous petitioner stated that Quichocho's nomination to the bench is a "typical example of how local politics continue to be the biggest obstruction to civil and social progress in the CNMI, second only to their constituents that sit idly by waiting for their turn in the barrel."

One petitioner described

Quichocho's nomination as "retarded."

"If an unqualified attorney like Quichocho can become a judge, even a mock trial high school student could be a judge in the CNMI," the petitioner said.

Another petitioner said the candidate for a judge should possess a sound record of professional and private ethics, be respected by his peers excluding clients and co-counsels, and not be involved in any lawsuits or other legal matters "which could prove embarrassing to the court and the public later on."

The online petition can be accessed at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/vote-no-on-quichocho/>

The CNMI Bar Association members gave Quichocho the lowest average scores in their evaluation, equivalent to "unacceptable" and "deficient."

Lt. Gov. Jude Hofsneider nominated Quichocho to the bench. His nomination requires the Senate's advice and consent.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chair of Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee, last week stated that they may hold a public hearing on Quichocho's nomination that week. There was no hearing conducted yet. Cruz and Quichocho are cousins.



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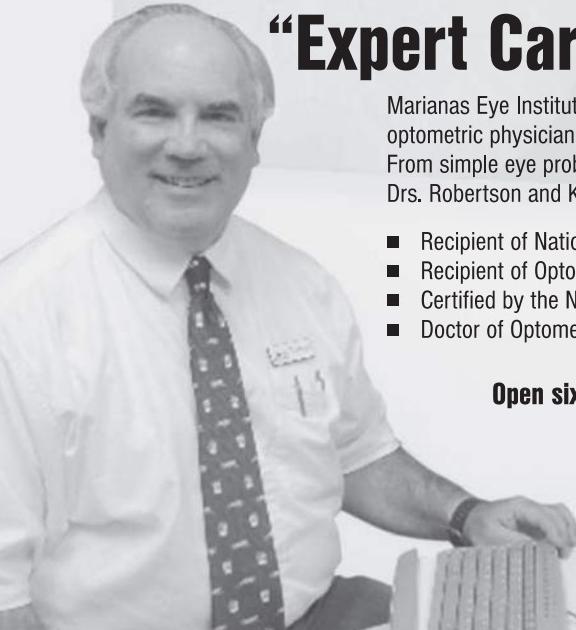
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2004	Ford Mustang GT	83,100 miles	\$7,995	
2005	Ford Ranger XL	54,500 miles	\$7,995 SOLD	
2010	Mazda Mazda3i Sport	41,650 miles	\$12,995	
2011	Mazda2 Touring	25,350 miles	\$14,995	
2010	Hyundai Azera Ltd.	23,700 miles	\$15,995	
2010	Hyundai Veracruz GLS	53,200 miles	\$17,995	
2010	Hyundai Tucson GLS	22,300 miles	\$17,995 SOLD	
2011	Kia Sportage LX	20,700 miles	\$18,995	
2009	Nissan Quest S	20,050 miles	\$18,995	

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What Home Means to Me? POSTER CONTEST

ENTRY RULES:

- THEME: "What Home Means to Me?"
- Poster Size: No larger than 22" X 28"
- Media: Contestants may use any art media (marker, crayon, paint, collage, textiles, etc.), but please consider that posters will need to be packaged, mailed and reproduced.
- OPEN to all children residing in affordable housing assisted directly or supported under community development and affordable housing programs administered by a NAHRO member authority (i.e., public or Section 8-assisted housing, CDBG, HOME, LIHTC).
- NMHC employees and their immediate families

AGE CATEGORIES:

- 1) Elementary K to 5th grade;
- 2) Middle - 6th to 8th grade; and
- 3) High - 9th to 12 grade

- One entry per Household/Family
- Posters with copyrighted artwork, characters, or name brands (i.e., Coke, Pepsi) will automatically be disqualified.

Submission Deadline: All entries must be received by NMHC by the end of the business day, June 14, 2013.

are ineligible to participate in this contest.

- All contestants must sign a release making their entry the property of NAHRO and permitting duplication/publication thereof.
- All contestants are asked to provide a short narrative on the inspiration, vision and importance of their poster design.

For more information, please contact the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation at tel nos. (670) 234-9447/6866/7670 (Saipan); (670) 433-9213 (Tinian); or (670) 532-9410 (Rota).

"As part of NAHRO's Housing America campaign, a poster contest is held each year for children residing in affordable housing and community developments owned or administered by NAHRO member agencies. Posters reflect the national theme of "What Home Means to Me." The contest is a collaborative effort of NAHRO's chapter/state, regional, and national organizations. National honorees are selected from chapter/state-level winning entries."

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Leynes, Lee tied for MBA's valedictorian honors



REINA S. PEREZ

MBA's salutatorians and valedictorians are, from left, Ji Hoon Choi, Se Young Hwang, Yoon Hyee (Eunice) Park, Kristine Joy Maniacop Leynes, and Young Eun Lee.

By REINA S. PEREZ
STUDENT REPORTER

Kristine Joy Maniacop Leynes and Young Eun Lee tied as Marianas Baptist Academy's top graduates during commencement ceremonies at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio's Multi-Purpose Center Friday night.

Leynes was named one of this year's class valedictorians. She will pursue a biochemistry degree at the University of San Diego in California come fall semester. Leynes was also the recipient of the Joeten Charitable Foundation scholarship.

Lee was named the other valedictorian. She will pursue applied mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley, in California come fall semester.

Marianas Baptist Academy named three students as this year's salutatorians: Ji Hoon Choi, Se Young Hwang, and Yoon Hyee "Eunice" Park.

Choi will pursue aerospace engineering at the Seoul National University in South Korea come fall. Hwang will pursue life science at the Pohang University of Science and Technology in South Korea, while Park will pursue international shipping and transport logistics at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong.

This year's 2013 high school graduating class consisted of Karen Christine Tam Alamer, Ji



KRISTINE JOY MANIACOP LEYNES
Valedictorian



YOUNG EUN LEE
Valedictorian

Hoon Choi, Zhao Xin (Harry) Fan, Jee Hui Hwang, Se Young Hwang, Min Sung Kim, Na Eun Kim, Suk Koo (Jeffrey) Kim, Hye Won Kwon, Yeo Jin Lee, Young Eun Lee, Kristine Joy Maniacop Leyness, Athena Theresia Vallido Palijo, Yoon Hyee (Eunice) Park, Justin Xu Poon, Trisha Takako Javan Takayama, and Han Sol Yu.

Marianas Baptist Academy also recognized its graduating middle school class in the ceremony. The top honor for the 8th grade class was given to Won Jun Kim.

This year's 2013 middle school graduating class consisted of Zamuel Karsten Reganit Alfred, Ju Hwan (Alex) Bae, Jose Antonio Pan Castro, Hyo Young (Jessica) Cho, Jessica Shng Yun Choi, Da Hyun Hyun, Won Jun Kim, Edward Yuuki Minami, Rachel Angela Vallido

Palijo, Angela Murillo Reganit, Katrina Anne Siobal Reyes, Da Hwan Rhyoo, Nesanne Mae Epan Tam, and Fritz Gerald Julian Trinidad.

The academy's principal, Ramiro H. Trinidad, recognized the many people who helped in the success of the graduates' school year. He recognized the Mock Trial coaches who helped the MBA team win first overall in the competition in Guam.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was Nicanor Ducusin, a staff member of the academy. He encouraged the graduating class to continue doing their best. "Whatever we do, if we put that first, do our best," Ducusin said in his speech to the graduates.

Marianas Baptist Academy also recognized many students who received awards and honors during the commencement ceremony on Friday night.

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SECOND AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Procurement and Delivery of Thirty (30) Proximity Fire Coats and Proximity Fire Pants for the Saipan International Airport Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department Project No. CPA-RFP-005-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for procurement and delivery of thirty (30) brand new Globe G-XCEL Proximity Jacket and thirty (30) Globe Proximity Fire Pants to the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all shipping and handling charges that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract, including excise tax. Size information can be picked up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Saipan International Airport's Arrival Terminal. Additional details are as follows:

Globe G-XCEL Proximity Jacket

1. NFPA Compliant
2. Up to 32" Length
3. Seven (7) ounce PBI/Kevlar Aluminized Outer Shell
4. 82 Aralite NP Quilt Thermal Liner
5. Stedair Moisture Barrier
6. Hook and Dee Rings on Inside/Velcro Outer Closure
7. Cargo/Hand warmer Pockets, 2"x 8" x 8"
8. Self-Material Reinforced Elbows
9. PBI Hand and Wrist Guards
10. 13P Radio Pocket on Left Chest, 3" x 3.5" x 9" with Antenna Notch on Left Side
11. DRD Drag Rescue Device
12. Telescoping Cuffs
13. AXTION Sleeve
14. Thermally Enhanced Upper Body and Elbows
15. 7.5" Long Throat Tab
16. All other standard features of the G-X-CEL
17. Up to Size 58

CPA will not accept any substitutions to the specified jackets and pants. Proposers shall submit based on the specifications listed above only. Any proposals with substitutions will not be entertained.

One original and three copies of proposal must be in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description and submitted to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, June 10, 2013.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Delivery timeframe;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format); and
- Valid CNMI Business License.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com by no later than Friday, May 24, 2013.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Leau testifies via video, admits to paying cash, checks for sex

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government played Friday in federal court its video deposition of former Public School System associate commissioner Peter Leau, who admitted paying cash and checks to karaoke operator Chang Ru Meng Bachman as payment for "sex with the girls."

In his deposition dated March 6, 2013, Leau, stated on cross-examination by defense counsel Victorino Torres that the girls willingly had sex with him and that they never told him that Backman is forcing them to do so.

Backman, operator of the now defunct Holiday Night Club, is on trial on charges of three counts of sex trafficking

by force, fraud, or coercion.

In Leau's deposition, assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy showed copies of nine checks, to which Leau admitted as accurate reflection of the original personal checks that he issued in 2008 as payment for sex with different girls at Holiday Night Club.

On cross examination by Backman's counsel, Victorino Torres, Leau admitted that he communicated with some of the girls directly through cell phone to come to his place.

Leau, who used to serve as principal of the Southern High School, disclosed that he paid the girls mostly by check and sometimes by cash. Sometimes he would pay the girls \$20 more so they could buy food to eat.

He agreed with Torres that he

developed a kind of "friendship and trust" with some of the girls.

Leau also agreed with Torres that not one among the girls told him that they wanted to be farmers, go to school, and that they were from Rota.

The first of three alleged sex trafficking victims earlier testified that Backman instructed them to tell customers they were from Rota and not from China.

Leau said he paid in cash whenever he visited Holiday Night Club alone or with a friend.

The three alleged sex trafficking victims all testified that they had sex with Leau. One of the girls described Leau as "very rough and brutal."

The prosecution tagged Leau as an essential witness in the

case. Leau reportedly retired from PSS due to medical reasons. He now lives in La Palma, California.

According to court papers, in at least one of the interviews conducted by law enforcement on Sept. 17, 2012, and on Nov. 28, 2012, Leau indicated that he suffered a stroke in 2010.

U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the U.S. government's motion to use Leau's deposition as the latter would not be able to travel from California to Saipan due to his medical condition.

Before Leau's video deposition was played in court, the third alleged victim completed her testimony on Friday. She recounted how she was alleg-

edly recruited from China for a legitimate job in the United States but ended up working as a prostitute on Saipan.

The third alleged victim disclosed, through an interpreter, that she borrowed money from her mother, brother, and a loan shark just to raise 80,000 RMB that she paid to the recruiter in China. The witness said she comes from a poor family in a province in China and has three children who are all in China.

She said a recruiter told her that his boss, who has a factory, farm, hotel, and restaurant, needs 20 people. The recruiter allegedly guaranteed her that she could earn \$1,500 to \$1,800 per month working in the U.S.A.

When asked by Badawy why

she did not go back to China after learning that her job on Saipan would be as a prostitute, the third alleged victim explained that at that time she didn't know any direction, did not know how to speak English, and did not know anybody.

The alleged victim said she told an FBI agent in an interview that Backman would drop her off at the place where she was supposed to meet customers.

She also stated that she wanted to forget everything that happened to her at Holiday Bar because it was a nightmare.

She said being forced to work as a prostitute shamed her and that she could never raise her head ever again.

The alleged victim is now a waitress in Guam.

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■ Doming Villar	Ticket #TC0237

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- Check underbody for damage, rust or corrosion
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'Delivery charge' for Saipan water service

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Non-indigents who used to receive free water delivery from the Municipality of Saipan will be assessed a fee once a regulation is finalized and enforced by the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Henry Hofsneider, the mayor's special adviser, confirmed this with *Saipan Tribune*, saying the new fee is among the recommendations in the soon-to-be completed proposal.

For many years, the municipality has been providing free

water delivery to low-income individuals and families on Saipan. Both indigents and non-indigents are given this help as long as they submit a request-application.

Hofsneider said the law that created the municipality authorized the mayor to provide help to those in need. But the same statute also authorized the official to promulgate regulations imposing fees and charges for such service if needed. He said this is the first time that a regulation will be formulated to this effect.

For non-indigents who want to avail of water delivery from the mayor's office, a fee will be as payment for the "delivery" and not for the water, which will remain free. He refused to disclose the proposed charge, pending final approval of the regulation.

Hofsneider revealed that since last year, the agency saw a large drop in the number of families asking for free water delivery. This, after the screening process was tightened and questionnaires were expanded to make sure the program is servicing the right beneficiaries.

The office usually delivers about 10,000 gallons of free water every week.

"Since we started this screening process, we have seen a big decline in the requests. From five days a week delivery in different homes, now we're seeing a large gap between deliveries," he said.

To ensure that there is a check-and-balance in the process, applications are also being forwarded to the Common-

wealth Utilities Corp. for further screening.

"For applicants who were disconnected of their water service from CUC, we inform homeowners that we can provide the free water only for one time and encourage them to work something out with the CUC for their service reconnection," said Hofsneider.

All applications, he added, are now securely placed in the municipality's database for tracking and monitoring.

According to Hofsneider, CUC sets no limit in the amount of free water to be picked up by the mayor's office.

Saipan Tribune learned that the municipality gets free water from CUC to help those in need. However, the municipality spends on fuel, maintenance of delivery truck, personnel, and other related expenditures for this free service. Most of the requestors, it was learned, are individuals who are not connected to CUC or whose accounts have been terminated due to unsettled debts.

Family spat lands man in hot water

A man is facing assault charges after he allegedly tried to punch his brother on May 25 at his brother's house in Koblerville.

Ronald J. Lizama, 23, was brought before the Superior Court on Tuesday for his initial court appearance. His bail was set at \$1,250. It was not immediately clear if he managed to post bail. Court records state that he was brought back to the Department of Corrections.

According to police detective Therese S. Kintoki's report, Lizama pushed his brother and attempted to punch him. He also spat on his brother's wife.

A police officer dispatched

to the disturbance incident at the Koblerville home arrested Lizama.

According to the detective's report, Lizama got angry when his brother could not provide a cigarette for him. Lizama told his brother to take his family and get out of the house. Lizama then proceeded to spit on his brother's wife's face and push his brother. Lizama tried to attack his brother again but was stopped by his father.

Lizama's brother's wife said she was concerned for the safety of her children because of Lizama's violence. (*Reina S. Perez*)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR PLANT SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from interested plant nurseries, suppliers, firms or individuals for the supply, service and maintenance of Interior (indoor) Plants at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing interior plants for a period of two (2) years as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work and evaluation factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on May 20, 2013. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to the RFP shall take into account any and all costs that will be charged by the proposer awarded the contract for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Interior Plant Service and Maintenance. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, June 28, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) price, (2) ability to supply plants and (3) relevant experience.

Proposer will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/S/ JOSE R. LIFOILOI
Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: 05/20/13

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY MULTI YEAR FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CPA-RFP-006-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposal for auditing services for a period of three (3) fiscal years. The location and scope of work package is available beginning May 23rd, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interested proposers must submit one original and three copies of the sealed proposal. Only proposals from U.S. nationally recognized firms will be accepted.

The sealed proposals must be submitted before 4:30 p.m. LOCAL TIME, June 28, 2013, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/S/JOSE R. LIFOILOI
Chairman/Contracting Officer

05/20/2013
Date

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 3, 2004

Fund: \$30M old claims remain unprocessed

Some \$30 million old claims for retirement health insurance remain unprocessed, according to the NMI Retirement Fund. In a report to the Legislature, the Fund said these claims were made even prior to the entry of a third party administrator, Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral, in 2001. These claims are both from on-island providers totaling \$29,840,492 and off-island providers reaching \$482,027. Data showed that the Commonwealth Health Center has the biggest unprocessed claim totaling \$28.6 million.

21 CUC consumers claim property compensation

At least 21 customers have decided not to pay their bills totaling \$825,000 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. pending the settlement of their claims with the agency. These customers, according to CUC, are seeking compensation for utility service lines that cross their properties. "Until such time as the amount of compensation is agreed upon, these customers have stopped paying a part or all of their utility bills," CUC said. The utility firm said that administrative hearings have been held to settle the claims. In the meantime, CUC has categorized the receivables due from the customers as "uncollectible."

June 3, 2005

User fee collection plummets

The government collected less than \$2 million in user fees in April and May this year—the lowest since 1995, according to governor's trade and economic affairs assistant Richard A. Pierce. He said the government only collected some \$1.83 million in April and some \$1.80 million in May. "Those two months are the first two months since 1995 that we had user fee collections [that amounted to] less than \$2 million," he said. The CNMI government used to receive an average of \$30 million a year from garment user fee—an average of \$2.5 million a month.

Senate to address alien deportation, illegal entry

Citing that the current law does not adequately deter the entry into the CNMI of unwanted aliens—including suspected terrorists and members of organized criminal syndicates—the Senate is mulling amendments to the law to expressly define "excludable aliens" and "illegal aliens." In Senate Bill 14-88, Sen. Paterno S. Hocog said that the Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act does not provide authority for the exclusion of foreign nationals that the CNMI government has reason to believe will threaten the safety or security of the public. "The absence of such provision makes it more likely that suspected terrorists or members of organized criminal syndicates are able to enter the Commonwealth. Nor does the current law adequately address foreign nationals who refuse to cooperate with officials pursuing criminal prosecutions," said Hocog.

June 3, 2006

Energy alternatives explored

In view of the skyrocketing prices of fuel, the Fitial administration is now looking at renewable energy sources such as wind and ocean thermal energy conversion. Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez, who is currently in-charge of the Commonwealth Utility Corp., said he is in discussion with companies that are interested in bringing in needed technologies. "We are looking at wind energy, OTEC. We are looking at having renewable energy sources. We have sun, water, wind around us. There's no reason why we should not try to tap these alternative energy sources," said Villagomez yesterday.

Senate commends four US senators

Four U.S. senators received commendation from their local counterparts for advocating the Commonwealth's economic issues. The CNMI Senate has adopted a resolution lauding Hawaii Sen. Daniel Kahikina Akaka, New Mexico Sens. Pete V. Domenici and Jeff Bingaman, and Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski. The four senators recently threw their support behind two of the CNMI's most crucial economic recovery initiatives—amending Head Note 3(a) and the tax cover over—advocating [CNMI issues] on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth, whom [they] do not represent, [the four senators have] distinguished [themselves] as honorable [senators] willing to do the right thing not for personal or political gain but, simply, because it is the right thing to do," stated a portion of the Senate resolution.

Special short-term contract for Sasamoto approved

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Derek Sasamoto, the outgoing comptroller of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, will stay a little longer at the agency under a special contract.

CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi disclosed that the special contract will be up to 60 days only, just so Sasamoto could assist the agency's litigation counsel, Robert Torres, on an important

issue with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The special contract pays Sasamoto at the rate he's being paid now. It will officially start on June 14, as soon as his contract expires a day before. Sasamoto gets \$75,000 per annum and it will be prorated for the special contract, according to Lifoifoi.

In an hour-long executive session Friday, the board discussed an ongoing issue with the utili-

ties corporation that Lifoifoi said Sasamoto is privy to and can help the legal counsel in its negotiation.

"Derek knows the numbers...so he could help Robert [Torres] in our issue with CUC," said Lifoifoi.

Board seaports facilities chair Benigno Sablan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the board—during the closed door meeting—directed the legal counsel to negotiate with CUC on out-

standing billing issues.

Sablan disclosed that CUC facilities were built in CPA-owned property in 1995, made possible by an agreement between CUC with the governor's office, which was addressing a water crisis at the time.

"We didn't charge them anything. We don't even have lease agreement then because people needed water. But in 2006, we started getting billings from CUC and now

that so we're looking at savings, but so far we aren't able to compromise," he added.

Sasamoto declined to comment on the board's decision, saying he has yet to receive official word about it. Sasamoto's contract expires on June 13. The board earlier voted not to renew it. The special contract for 60 days, if accepted by Sasamoto, will begin June 14.

The board also approved lowering the salary of the next agency comptroller from the existing \$75,000 to \$60,000 per annum.

14, 2012, the cartons of undeclared Marlboro and Philip Morris cigarettes. The items were reportedly consigned to a wholesaler on Saipan.

The undeclared cigarettes, reportedly worth thousands of dollars, were allegedly hidden beneath bags of chips in boxes packed into a 20-foot container.

Case vs alleged cigarette smuggler dropped

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General last week moved to dismiss the case against a man who allegedly tried to smuggle 4,000 cartons of undeclared cigarettes

into the Commonwealth, reportedly the largest haul of smuggled cigarettes in NMI history.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted the OAG's motion to dismiss the case against Jeon Soo Woan without prejudice.

Dismissal without prejudice means the OAG is allowed to re-file the case in the future.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField didn't disclose the reason why she asked for the case's dismissal.

As the court cannot force the OAG to prosecute a case, Camacho granted the motion.

The jury trial of Woan was originally set for April 2013, but the OAG asked the court to move it to June 10, 2013.

Attorney Loren Sutton served as counsel for Woan.

Last December, Attorney Gen-

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to my brother and my children's uncle/nino, Audy Jarvis! We hope you enjoy your special day and God bless you with many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from the ChungiBatz in K-3 and the Calvos in Guam.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to the awesomest sister in the world, Breanna Camacho! Hope you enjoyed your day/weekend with laughter and fun! God bless and we love you. Greetings coming out from your friends and familia.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 20th birthday, Richelle Janelle Cabrera Borja, who is celebrating her birthday today, June 3. May God bless you and hope your special day brings you all that your heart desires! Wishing you a day full of pleasant surprises. Greetings coming out from Mom, Samirah, JR III, Erica, Shawn, Jenny, RJ, and the whole families and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our baby girl Esperanza Ritonio Lizama Santos, who is promoting today, June 3, 2013, at the Ordot Elementary School. Good luck on your new adventure to the Agueda Middle School, baby girl. We love you so much, our "DivaStar." Greetings come from Mommy and Daddy Saipan, Mommy and Daddy Guam, your brothers and sisters and your niece Kimani.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
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- Able to meet Sales Goals and to develop Budgets
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- Experience in developing marketing and sales strategies
- Must be aligned with the core values of accountability, teamwork, trust and integrity
- Customer service oriented with an outgoing personality
- Must be able to travel

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Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village—Saipan. Deadline of submission is on June 6, 2013.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

Autism awareness in the CNMI

By THOMAS M. THORNBURGH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Although we live in the middle of the Pacific and far from many places, we are still affected by autism. Every April in the CNMI, we celebrate Autism Awareness Month and help our community become more aware of autism and the issues surrounding it.

Autism is an epidemic affecting every country of the world. It does not discriminate as it affects all sorts of people from all walks of life. Autism spectrum disorders are a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges.

In the CNMI, the Public School System reports that 99 students have a form of autism spectrum disorder in the public schools.

Nationwide, the Center on Disease Control reports that 1 in 50 school-aged kids 6-17 year olds have been diagnosed with some form of ASD.

Worldwide, we celebrate Autism Awareness Day on April 2 and we "Light it up Blue." This use of blue lights encourages people to ask "why are the lights blue?" Then that is when the education can take place by informing them about autism.

Not much is known about causes, but some evidence points at heredity. This evidence suggests from one generation to the next and across, as in siblings. It is more common in boys than in girls. Autism is not diagnosed like cancer or diabetes. Rather, it is observed by clinical professionals through observing behavior.

Interestingly enough, our presenter this year in the CNMI, Ms. Kandis Lighthall, who has had 30 years of experience working with students with autism, said that "people with autism use behavior as a form of communication." She came to Saipan in April and was on KKMP and Power 99 talking about autism and our awareness activities, in which she presented to teachers, health care providers, child care providers, parents, and those interested in autism. She did this on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in April 2013, which is Autism Awareness Month here in the CNMI. As a result of these trainings, we as a community have more awareness when it comes to autism.

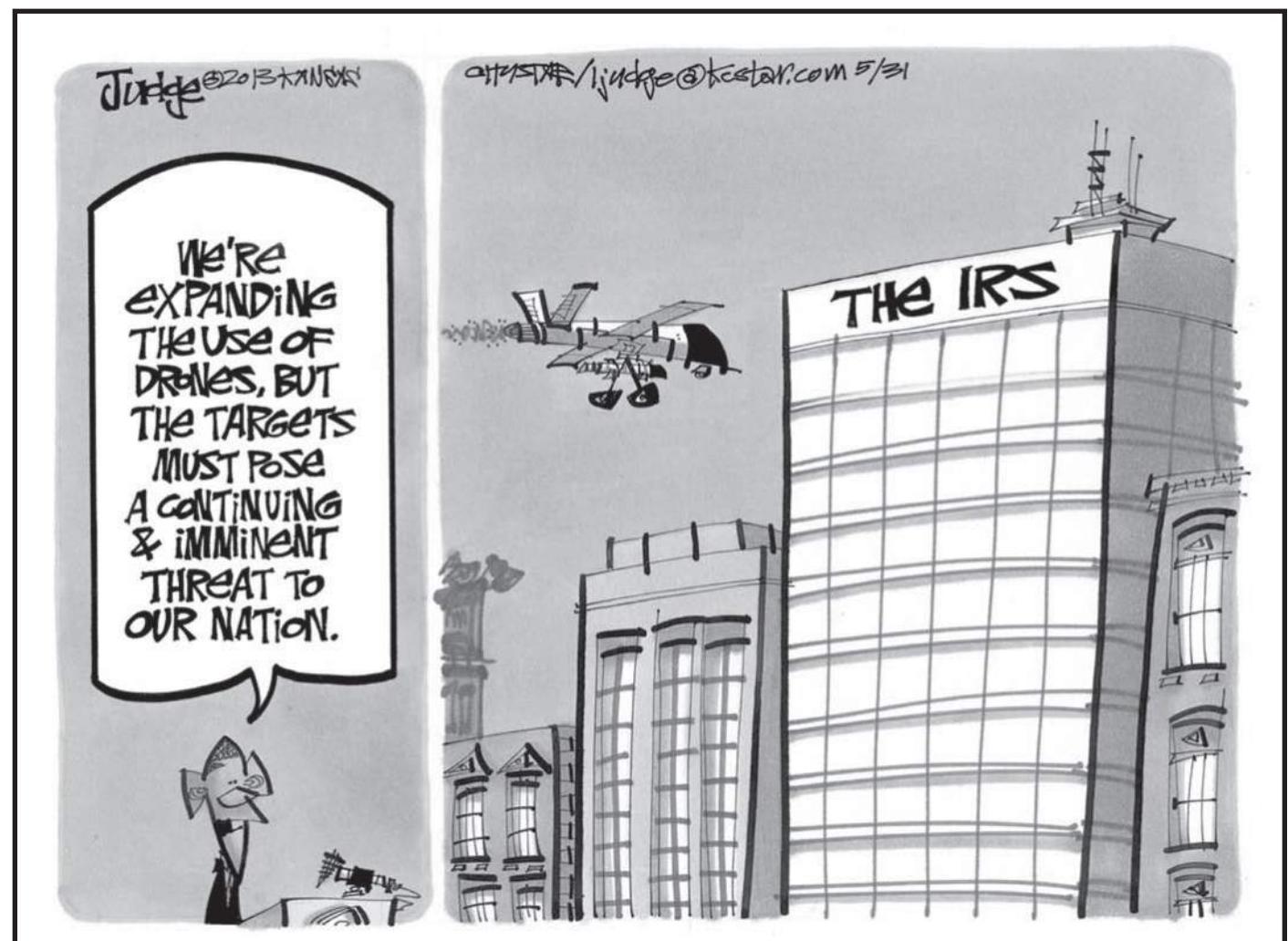
If you suspect your child has autism, please see a clinical professional. If your child is between the ages of 0-3 years old, then you should go to the Children's Developmental Assistance Center in Garapan for a free assessment. You can reach them at (670) 664-4830 to 37. If your child is between the ages of 3-5 years old, then the Early Childhood Program can assist you with a free assessment at (670) 237-3019. If your child is between the ages of 5-21 years old, then you can get a free assessment by the Special Education Program's Child Study Team by referring to the school administration where your child goes to school or by calling (670) 237-3029.

Besides these services, there are also groups concerned about autism that meet regularly and share information on new information on autism. This group is called the Autism Society of the CNMI. To contact this group you would have to call me at 287-9205 or at NMPASI at 235-7273/4. There is also a list serve you can sign up for so that you can keep up to date on new information about autism and issues surrounding it via your email account. Also visit <http://www.autismspeaks.org> and <http://www.autism-society.org/> for more on autism in America.

The CNMI has come a long way since autism was uttered around these parts, but there is still so much more to do as far as awareness, education and how to include people with autism in all aspects of living in the CNMI.

The CNMI tri-Agencies which are the Council on Developmental Disabilities, NMC's University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities, and NMPASI's Protection & Advocacy for

See AUTISM on Next Page



Pisikoa Pacifica

It was on a trip to Samoa and Tonga in the early '80s that I heard of the term "Pisikoa" for the U.S. Peace Corps in the Pacific. Acquaintances derisively used the term for volunteers who kept unkempt appearances, had reportedly gone "native," much to the chagrin of the peacock-headed local ones.

Our Wesleyan colleagues in Apia and Nuku'alofa commented that PCVs stayed hairy in order to avoid becoming attractive in the heavily male-dominated society. Polynesian males were assertively imposing. The hippies were in vogue in the '70s, and some of the PCVs who were America's youth in transition appropriated the lifestyle.

A Majuro health aide recalled an experience when she took the interisland boat. She provided classes on hygiene to mothers' groups. It was in one of her official voyages (she normally flew) when the engine of the ship quit and the floating mass listlessly remained stationary while the crew radioed for a technician to figure out how to get the engine started.

She had become friendly and trusting of the pleasant crew and relatively young passengers who culturally would not hurt a fly. In fact, Marshallese at that time committed suicide first before imposing homicidal trauma on another. In an evening of illicit brew, in the heat and isolation of the moment, the young lady consented to join what evolved into an inebriated feast where she became the main course passed around from one caress to another.

While she realized she was not altogether an innocent bystander, or a helpless victim, her resistance to becoming a convenient piece of meat was mostly mental, and she resolved from the experience to stay an unshaven Pisikori, if her sanity survived the ordeal. It took the kindly ministrations of an elderly missionary couple to nurse her back to healthy self-esteem.

In the next decade, I worked on community development in the Pacific that took seriously the human factor at the core of the methodological equation. Economic viability utilized local resources—natural, human, and technological—before depending on external investment. It initiated procedure that led to the political "we" (participatory democracy), and the culturally determining value (human consciousness), which refereed the inevitable conflict between individual survival and communal welfare.

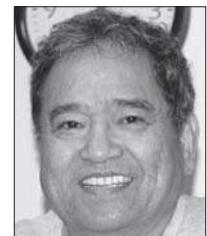
When we moved to Saipan to pastor the Immanuel UMC, we immediately took a liking to the genial bonhomie of Sam McPhetres, history and poli-sci professor at NMC, erstwhile PCV director of Truk (now Chuuk), and linguist in the archival disciplines.

We discovered Jeff Schorr at OIA who was PCV director in Tonga two years after we conducted a two-month Human Development Training School there just before a devastating August typhoon. It was a former Micronesian PCV vet of the first batch in the late '60s, now a specialist in penal law in Arizona, who ushered us to our demo project in Majuro, and getting the Kabua and DeBrum names into my vocabulary.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Growing our development prowess in Sudtonggan on Mactan in the Visayas, in a demo project site and training center, we were often invited to orient PCVs on community development methods that seriously engaged the diverse stakeholders to meet their own requirements. For a year, after Majuro and before returning to Micronesia, I joined the local Manila office's PCV training staff to conduct orientation events for newly arrived volunteers. It was in that capacity that we ran into a young PCV named Larry Lee.

We watched and applauded Sam's conscientious efforts in relevant educational ventures at NMC until we left the Commonwealth. Jeff and Hannah remained civil acquaintances, though our contacts grew infrequent when their son was born. Jeff's retirement from office coincided with our 67th b-day, but we remember him most while watching him during what we considered an intense "spiritual" discipline of picking up trash along a street in Fina Sisu during his lunch hour.

Larry Lee had his hands full at NMC when we briefly popped into his office a couple of years ago to borrow an Economics textbook to get us reacquainted with econometrics after we decided to lecture at Shenyang Aerospace University.

We recall all these because Jeff and Larry are in the news of late. Jeff had been the only OIA officer on Saipan for the last 25 years, finally getting a replacement almost a year after his retirement. Larry found himself in an awkward position at NMC as Susan Hart decided it was time for thorn-on-the-side teacher Lee to revisit his CV.

It was the common thread of Pisikoa Pacifica that got us reminiscing after straying lately into matters military, and previously viewing the PCV program as an alternative rite of passage for America's youth. While the PCV is attributed as the initiator of the local penchant for the weed and the metamorph, one of our distinguish CNMI immigration and labor lawyers was a PCV in Africa's West Coast islands of Sao Tome & Sao Principe. A diminutive but dedicated nurse colleague was also an NMC teacher before she retired. The mixed review is handled openly and in good humor, and that makes it more human than the secretive conduct of classified stealth operations of fireballs and drones.

Our service in the Peace Corps always calls us at solemn attention, and in the process, we do not hesitate to touch the tip of the open palm on the brow!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What are investors looking for?

Are countries endowed with wealthy investors looking for the triad sun, sea and sand when searching for investment venues? Or is this more fitting for financially suited executives looking for a place to unwind hoping to return to work with some prestigious suntan?

But what are wealthy investors or state-supported firms looking for in prospective investment venues? Outward investment by any firm seeks something relatively lacking at home: additional demand (new market), physical assets, technology, labor force qualities, or simple financial return on investments, according to a testimony by Heritage Foundation before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

"The value of investments is judged against the risk imposed by the political and regulatory environment of the host country." On this score, did we employ agility to prevent the exodus of foreign capital in recent past? Did we hit our books to quickly repeal regressive laws on investment or did we employ the strange view that we can build wealth by imposing more taxes? Coupled with a prohibitively high cost of utilities, would not this combination elicit the exact opposite?

Now, let's say that a hi-tech or medical equipment firm wishes to move into the NMI. It would definitely probe labor force quality, the background of the work force in terms of acquisition of skills or knowledge in science, computer technology/science, and math. In short, it would look into our educational system to determine if we produce workers who are computer literate or know computer code, among others. If not, then it would move to the West Coast in search of quality workers.

While NMC produces the best teachers, about the only thin chance we'd have up this alley is when educational tourism expands—schools where Japanese, Korean and Chinese students could learn English as they work on their majors. NMC and various high schools are into this venture today. Admittedly our workforce is far from adequate for highly technical manufacturing and it isn't an attraction for investing in the production of medical equipment or hi-tech devices.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A call for justice

I am sending you this email to show my disappointment regarding the current CNMI provision on immigration bill. I would like to share with you my point of view and the following is my brief background history.

I am a long-term investor in the CNMI. I came to Saipan in 1988, almost 25 years now. I came as an investor. I have always viewed Saipan as my home. I have my own business and employ staff. I used to have a team of 10 workers in my company. Unfortunately, it has been downsized due to the poor economy. My husband and I are currently holding E2 CNMI investor visas. However, the proposed immigration bill does not address CNMI long-term investors. We are not allowed to maintain our business and stay in the CNMI after 2014. It would be frustrating if CNMI long-term investors are excluded as we are the people who create jobs on the island. I am an investor but I also work as a manager in my business. Besides, the requirement and process is far more complicated getting an E2c visa than getting a CW visa. For instance, investing a minimum amount of money in the CNMI for investment and maintaining the business. As a result, I am not satisfied with the immigration provision that long-term investors are not

AUTISM

From Page 10

Developmental Disabilities were given life by the U.S. Administration on Developmental Disabilities to work together to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities in the CNMI.

According to the ADD section 102(8), "the term 'developmental disability' means a severe, chronic disability of an individual 5 years of age or older that:

1. Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
2. Is manifested before the individual attains age 22;

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 90	▼ 82
Palau	Showers	▲ 86	▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 91	▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 63	▼ 57
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82	▼ 64
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86	▼ 80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64	▼ 53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 80	▼ 64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 91	▼ 82
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58	▼ 45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 84	▼ 76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81	▼ 69
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 81	▼ 63
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64	▼ 49
Pusan	Windy	▲ 73	▼ 61
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲ 68	▼ 58
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72	▼ 49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 70	▼ 56
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79	▼ 61
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 75	▼ 63
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 90	▼ 72

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:46 AM	6:45 PM	Today	1:39 AM	2:15 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM	Tuesday	2:20 AM	3:05 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM	Wednesday	3:02 AM	3:56 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Thursday	3:44 AM	4:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Friday	4:29 AM	5:36 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The maintenance of fear

I can't say that I know why the accrediting body for the Northern Marianas College, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, has had it out for the institution over the course of the last decade. The process to me has seemed highly unfair to NMC. That said, short of applying for accreditation through another accrediting body, NMC has been compelled to attempt to address the myriad of WASC edicts.

One thing I am positive about is that it was not the intention of WASC to create an atmosphere where fear of the loss of accreditation would lead to a scenario where a tyrannical president would employ fear to rule over a staff and faculty. I am positive that it was not the intention of WASC to silence faculty, and relegate them to a state where they are afraid to even talk to their own peers for fear of eventual retribution. I am pretty sure WASC did not intend to see staff and faculty of the college at a place where they were hesitant to even comment about the college on social media for fear of retaliation. I am sure it was not the intention of WASC to see exemplary instructors terminated for speaking out against particular policies. I am fairly positive it was not the intention of WASC to see exemplary instructors escorted off of a *public* campus like criminals and fallaciously told that they could only re-enter the campus with escorts. I am positive it was not the intention of WASC to create a scenario where a tyrannical president could act *carte blanche* in a manner that was harmful to the institution without any oversight or ability to thwart her detrimental and destructive actions by the regents. I am positive that it was not the intention of WASC to see that a poor president was retained.

I am positive that it was not the intention of WASC to see any of the aforementioned scenarios come to pass.

The infinitesimally small cadre of support or pseudo-support for President Hart's recent actions state that "we should just be quiet about this or it will affect the college's accreditation." This has been

their argument. That this permeation of fear is somehow necessary to the process of seeing the NMC successfully removed from show-cause status. I call it the "maintenance of fear" policy. Be quiet and don't make a fuss over her tyrannical behavior because it will hurt accreditation. We can't remove Hart now, it will hurt accreditation. What a bunch of malarkey. The only reason Hart remains there right now, and the only reason her inappropriate actions have been ignored, is because of fear by the regents that affecting her in any way will be detrimental to accreditation. Again, that is surely malarkey.

First of all, if this president was so concerned about accreditation (and she should be), she would have thought the wiser about carrying out her retaliatory terminations. Hart gave lip service to letting bygones be bygones and wanting to work with those who spoke out against her and gave her a vote of no-confidence...and then immediately after her own contract was approved, goes and fires two exemplary instructors, both of whom happened to be staunch and vocal policy critics, and who were the former and current Faculty Senate presidents.

There has been an outflow of support from faculty, staff, students, former staff and faculty and the community for Larry Lee and Kyle Podziewski, and against the actions of President Hart. Good people know bad when they see it.

Hart's nonsensical response to all of this is... "this isn't a popularity contest." I'm not sure what she means by that. This isn't about who's "popular." This is just a clumsy attempt by Hart at misdirecting the public. This is about what is right. And Hart's actions were the farthest thing from "right." She has also engaged in a feeble attempt at suggesting these individuals are not qualified. A disgusting and onerous attempt, mind you. First of all, Podziewski was recruited by the college. His credentials were obviously acceptable when he was hired two years ago, and through the evaluations that took place over the course of his employment. Lee was also proven to be

more than qualified for his courses and similarly received excellent evaluations. This was simply nasty, unprofessional, disgusting retaliatory behavior, and Hart should at the very least not pretend that folks are dumb enough not to see that.

As a community, what kind of institution of higher learning do we want? One that is led by an individual who attempts to stymie communication between the regents and anyone but herself, and negate the voice of the faculty, and see faculty and staff scared into silence, and see "without cause" contracts for teachers, and see an impotent Board of Regents who refuse to address even serious matters—instead deferring to the tyrannical mess they mistakenly hired, and see plagiarism, and the misappropriation of resources, and attempts at nepotism and the misuse of public property as acceptable? Is this what we want from our highest educational institution? Is this the example we want our kids to be exposed to? It's alright to use one's public office to silence critics through termination and instilling an institution-wide fear of job loss?

I reiterate: Do something Board of Regents. You are part of this community. You know all of the people involved. You know that these are quality individuals and quality instructors. You know, hell, we all know, whether Hart wants to try to hide it or not, what exactly is going down at our college. Her son driving around the college vehicle was no secret. Jobs at the college for husband and son were no secret. Her plagiarism on part of the accreditation report was no secret. The overwhelming vote of no confidence, whether the board erroneously accepted the results or not, was no secret. And retaliation being the basis for the firing of these instructors and faculty representatives is no secret.

Someone put to me the question "But who could replace the current president? We'd have to spend a fortune, and couldn't afford anyone else." Baloney! I can think of five people off the top of my head who would have performed substantially better than what we have now, who are well respected by the educational community and staff and faculty of NMC, and who are tied and invested to this community. One of them even managed to get us off "show cause" during her actingship. We didn't need to spend countless dollars, and travel Regents to end up hiring a president who had received such a lopsided no-confidence vote at her former institution. It didn't take rocket scientists to figure out that one wouldn't work.

So do something, regents. End this maintenance of fear. There is a difference between micromanaging the operations of the college, and addressing actions of a president that are damaging and detrimental to the institution, and not what this community want or expect of its community college. And there is a remedy available to the regents. Hart can be removed "without cause" and, after all that has happened at the college, there is no one more deserving of this. Larry Lee and Kyle Podziewski certainly weren't.

When one reads all of the complaints and allegations against and reviews the actual adverse actions by and failures of Hart, one wonders what it might actually take to get terminated at NMC? Being exemplary instructors who are outspoken about bad policies I guess?

I'll end with a quote from my niece, Tatiana Guevarra Olopai, who along with my wife, and numerous cousins and relatives and friends, are currently enrolled at NMC: "No one in our community should be allowed to wield an ax of fear in order to promote silence and apathy." This is especially true at our only community college.

Robert Hunter
Garapan, Saipan

Better off

I had been sharing my feelings about the possibility of the CNMI becoming independent island nation with my older sister in the past. I thought that my views were abnormal and I tried not to share it with others for decades. My feelings had been dormant for decades and I felt that it is ripe to discuss such matter with our people. Our elders encouraged me to stand on my two feet and speak for myself what is right for our people.

After researching how the CNMI government came about, we are determined to stand up for what is right for our future generation. We have all the respect for the United States and I personally served in its Armed Forces (Army, Marine, California National Guard). It is time for us to band together and determine our future without the influence of other nations.

After looking into the Republic of Palau's situation, they have a representative in the world body and they receive aid from multiple countries. Palau's situation is a plus for its people for they have control within their internal affairs and they have the ability receive assistance from other developing countries. Our island chain will be better off if we can achieve the same status as the Republic of Palau.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

focused, intelligent, open, honest, and respectable person. It is very hard for me to think that NMC students are going to be deprived of the help of a really dedicated teacher.

To think that this is happening at the time when the accreditation of the college is shaky. It is very scary, I am getting nervous. The fact that these two faculties are the critics of the president who chose not to renew their contracts is a clear indication that the president cannot tolerate different opinions from her own. There has to be a way of harnessing ideas, opinions other than our own.

Fe Calixterio
As Terlaje, Saipan

I am reacting to the non-renewal of the contracts of Kyle Podziewski and Larry Lee at the Northern Marianas College. I understand that these two instructors are critics of the president who decided not to renew their contracts. It is sad that this happens in an institution of higher education, that it is no longer safe to go against the decisions of the president and to be critical of the practices of administration. I thought that the presence of different opinions could ignite a healthy discussion that could lead to growth and development. Obviously, the president does not believe in differences, she believes in uniformity.

Kyle is newly elected Faculty Senate president, which to me means the faculty trusts and respects him. Larry Lee has been with the college for a long time. I know him to be a hardworking, student-

Segundo Castro
Marpo Heights, Tinian

Lizama, Ryu are MCS' top graduates for high school

By REINA S. PEREZ
STUDENT REPORTER

Feng Liang Lizama and Ji Min Ryu were named Mount Carmel School's top graduates during commencement ceremonies at Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday night.

Lizama was named Mount Carmel School's 2013 valedictorian. She will pursue a computer system engineering degree at the Polytechnic Institution in New York this fall.

Ryu was named Mount Carmel School's 2013 salutatorian.

Lizama and Ryu led 21 graduates this year.

Other honorees were Janelia



FENG LIANG LIZAMA
Valedictorian

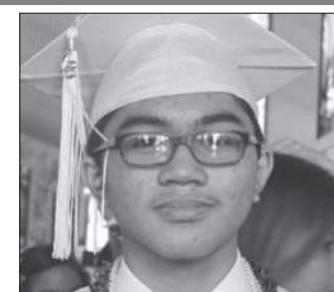


JI MIN RYU
Salutatorian

A. Revilla, first honor; Anastasia Rose Cano Schweiger, second honor; Bryan Cho, third honor; Alyssia Ashley Delos Santos Olarte, fourth honor; John Gilbert Salvatierra Saludez, fifth honor; and Victoria



**JAQUELINE
BERNARDO DOCTOR**
Valedictorian



**MICHAEL ROY E.
ORTIZO**
Salutatorian

pions as well as numerous accomplishments in the National Forensic League.

The graduating Class of 2013 was also recognized for its many accomplishments: two Attorney General's Cup winners and the 2013 CNMI Mock Trial cham-

mates to "take advantage of every talent you get, pursue your dreams, and make a difference."

Commencement speaker William DeWitt, director of the Saipan Southern High School

Manta Ray Band, highlighted the accomplishments of the 2013 graduating class and expressed appreciation for the time he got to work with the class. His advice to the graduates: "The desire for learning must never run dry."

Mount Carmel School also held its middle school graduation at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa on Saturday at 10am.

Jaqueleine Bernardo Doctor and Michael Roy E. Ortiz were the top honorees of MCS's middle school, with Doctor named the valedictorian and Ortiz the salutatorian.

MCS president Galvin De Leon Guerrero had many good words to say about the graduating middle school class. Among these were that the class was "not just about [their] accomplishments but about [their] diversities."

Saturday's events concluded the commencement ceremonies of Mount Carmel School.

NMC to host free Cash for College workshop

The Northern Marianas College and the College Access Challenge Grant program will be hosting a free "Cash for College" workshop aimed at assisting students and their parents maximize scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

The free workshop will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2013, in Building A at the NMC As Terlaje campus. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 3pm.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC admission application process.

It is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid passport, birth certificate, or green card), at least three official transcripts, signed 2012 1040 tax form (2012 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes), proof of CNMI residency for 2011 and 2012 (for example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voters Certification, etc.)

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1526 or email daisym@nmc-net.edu. (NMC)

Cristobal, Mamaril are GCA's top high school graduates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy bestowed its highest academic excellence awards on Crystalline Marie Cristobal and Angela Faith Mamaril, who were named this year's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

The two led the institution's graduating class during a special ceremony Friday night on campus where 22 seniors were presented with high school diplomas and certificates.

Cristobal, 17, is the daughter of Eusebio and Cecilia Cristobal. She plans to pursue a nursing degree at the University of



**CRYSTALLINE MARIE
CRISTOBAL**
Valedictorian



**ANGELA FAITH
MAMARIL**
Salutatorian

Northern Mariana Islands weigh obligation bonds as pension cure

By RANDALL JENSEN
[HTTP://WWW.BONDBUYER.COM](http://WWW.BONDBUYER.COM)

SAN FRANCISCO—In an effort to get out from under the weight of unsustainable pension liabilities, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is considering selling bonds backed by islands as collateral, and legalizing gambling.

Lawmakers in the commonwealth's House of Representatives passed a bill recently that would authorize up to \$300 million of pension obligation bonds to pay off its retirement liabilities. It is now in the Senate.

Local reports have quoted lawmakers saying that several islands, including its volcanic island of Pagan, could be used as collateral for the POBs.

Another bill in the House would allow casinos to operate in the population center of Saipan in an effort to generate more revenue to pay for the pensions.

The Northern Mariana Islands "have very strained finances driven partly by the contraction of the economy since the collapse of the apparel industry," Moody's Investors Service analyst Ken Kurtz said in a phone interview from San Francisco. "They run persistent, large general-fund deficits of which the pensions are part of

the problem."

The Northern Mariana Islands, a stretch of 14 islands in a 300-mile archipelago that starts north of Guam in the western Pacific Ocean, has been a commonwealth of the United States since 1978. It has a population of around 61,000 people. The majority of the population and economy is centered on the island of Saipan.

The commonwealth had a general fund deficit of \$316 million or 189 percent of revenue in 2010, Moody's said. Of that, the rating agency said \$246 million is tied to the liability to its Pension Trust Fund.

The islands' have been running a general fund deficit since 1994, according to Standard & Poor's.

Kurtz said the island territory in Micronesia has been able to maintain its budget in recent years by withholding payments to its pension system. He added that financial disclosure has been a problem for the commonwealth.

Moody's removed the Northern Mariana Islands from review in September. The review was prompted by a lack of information from government officials.

If the commonwealth decides to sell the pension obligation bonds, they would be taxable and likely pay a high interest rate, relative to today's market, because

of its low rating. Barclays is said to be advising the government on the potential deal.

Barclays declined to comment for the story.

Moody's rates the commonwealth's GO bonds at junk level, B2. Standard & Poor's does not have a rating.

Fitch Ratings has a B-minus rating on the islands' airport revenue bonds.

Matt Fabian, a managing director at Municipal Market Advisors, said an issuance of POBs by the islands would likely sell at a rate of 5 percent or more in today's market, which he said is "not that high" if you consider the long term.

"The rating agencies have always been far more permissive of issuers selling pension obligation bonds than perhaps they should be," Fabian said. "We see the issuance of pension bonds as an indictment of the issuers' willingness to pay. They are taking on a long-term, fixed obligation to help their short-term budget condition."

That is exactly what is happening in the Northern Mariana Islands. But officials may not have much of a choice.

The commonwealth's economy took a big hit after the U.S. government eliminated tariff advantages, extended U.S. immigration law to the common-

wealth through a 2008 law, and began enforcing federal minimum wage statutes, decimating the islands' apparel industry.

That industry had employed foreign workers at wages below U.S. norms to produce clothing labeled "Made in the USA."

According to Moody's, the U.S. territory's gross domestic product declined by more than 49 percent from 2003 to 2009 and its population fell 22 percent from 2000 to 2010.

Its general fund revenues collapsed in tandem, dropping 36 percent over four years to \$138 million in 2009, the rating agency said.

This all happened while its debt to the closed defined-benefit plan with 6,000 members kept growing.

The most recent valuation of the pension system done in October 2009 said the plan was only 39 percent funded, and Kurtz said that figure is most likely even lower now.

Moody's 2012 report said the actuarial accrued liability of the system was \$911 million and the market value of its investments was \$353 million.

The retirement fund tried to declare bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code in April 2012. In June 2012 a U.S. bankruptcy judge in Honolulu ruled the

fund was ineligible to file.

Kurtz said the island does have some bright economic spots, including rising tourism and hotel occupancy tax revenues, and it doesn't have much debt compared to other U.S. territories and commonwealths, such as Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands, which are much larger economies.

The Northern Mariana Islands have around \$100 million of tax-supported general obligation bonds outstanding and a \$7 million loan from the retirement systems, which represents 15 percent of its GDP or 78 percent of its annual operating revenues, Moody's said.

In one of the most recent trades of the islands' debt, \$3.4 million of the commonwealth's GO refunding bonds maturing in 2033 with an initial 5 percent coupon in 2007 sold in the secondary market at a yield of 6.801 percent on Sept. 13.

The commonwealth's full faith and credit secures the GO bonds.

As with other U.S. territories, interest on bonds of the Northern Mariana Islands is exempt from taxation by any state in addition to the federal tax-exemption.

Pension obligation bonds, which are taxable, would not enjoy that advantage.

Business

The IRS, its glory days and its checkered past



In this March 19, 2008 file photo shows an Iraq War demonstrator gets arrested outside the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in Washington during a protest on the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq.

WASHINGTON (AP)—For a time, the Internal Revenue Service inspired awe and admiration in Americans, not just trepidation and lame jokes about death and taxes.

Everyone loved the revenue agents when they put away Al Capone, the Chicago underworld's master of brutality and bribes, in a coup so spectacular it scared other gangsters straight.

In the year after, federal coffers swelled as delinquent taxpayers stepped forward to make good on their debts. Criminals came out of the woodwork to pay taxes on their ill-gotten gains. Authorities in what was then the Intelligence Unit of

the Bureau of Internal Revenue nailed the slippery Public Enemy No. 1 when no one else could, scooped up New York City racketeers by the dozen and stood tall in the popular imagination as incorruptible, fearless stewards of the treasury and the law.

Fine, but that was the 1930s. What have they done for us lately?

Or to us?

The essential mission hasn't changed. The IRS still collects the money that goes back out to build roads, help look after people in their old age, fight menaces from Nazism to terrorism, and operate the vast levers

of government. It still locks up a few thousand delinquents a year, among them drug kingpins who wouldn't be caught any other way.

But no one loves the IRS anymore, not for ages. It's our culture's king-sized pain that makes you do hard math, issues nonsensical directions, takes your money and gives it to politicians to waste even as they borrow unspeakable sums from China to waste even more.

On top of that overdrawn caricature, the agency now is saddled with its episode of tea party tumult, exposing IRS behavior that is memorably bumbling at best and criminal at worst.

would-be buyers would appoint just one person to bid on each property on the auction block, thus securing the "winning" bid. Minutes after the official proceeding was over, they would then conduct an auction among themselves, often on the same courthouse steps.

That's when a property's true price would emerge. The conspirators would then divvy up the difference paid at the official auction and the private one.

Feds crack down on foreclosure auction scams

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

At the height of the financial crisis, bargain hunters would gather each week on county courthouse steps to bid on foreclosed properties throughout Northern and Central California. The inventory lists were long, especially in hard-hit areas such as Sacramento and Stockton. But the auctions were generally short affairs—often because real estate speculators were illegally fixing

the bidding process.

In the past three years, federal prosecutors have charged 54 people and two companies in three states for bid-rigging during courthouse auctions of foreclosed properties. Most cases originated in California, the state with the highest foreclosure rate during the financial crisis. Nearly identical rings were also broken up in Raleigh, N.C., and Mobile, Ala.

Working in concert, the

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Judge: Google must give user info to FBI

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

Google must comply with the FBI's demand for data on certain customers as part of a national security investigation, according to a ruling by a federal judge who earlier this year determined such government requests are unconstitutional.

The decision involves "National Security Letters," thousands of which are sent yearly by the FBI to banks, telecommunications companies and other businesses. The letters, an outgrowth of the USA Patriot Act passed after the Sept. 11 attacks, are supposed to be used

exclusively for national security purposes and are sent without judicial review. Recipients are barred from disclosing anything about them.

In March, U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston sided with the Electronic Frontier Foundation in a lawsuit brought on behalf of an unidentified telecommunications company, ruling the letters violate free speech rights. She said the government failed to show the letters and the blanket non-disclosure policy "serve the compelling need of national security" and the gag order creates "too large a danger

that speech is being unnecessarily restricted."

She put that ruling on hold while the government appeals to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In the latest case, Illston sided with the FBI after Google contested the constitutionality and necessity of the letters but again put her ruling on hold until the 9th Circuit rules. After receiving sworn statements from two top-ranking FBI officials, Illston said she was satisfied that 17 of the 19 letters were issued properly. She wanted more information on two other letters.

Nation

Frightened Okla. residents opt to flee tornadoes

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—

It's a warning as familiar as a daily prayer for Tornado Alley residents: When a twister approaches, take shelter in a basement or low-level interior room or closet, away from windows and exterior walls.

But with the powerful devastation from the May 20 twister that killed 24 and pummeled the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore still etched in their minds, many Oklahomans instead opted to flee Friday night when a violent tornado developed and headed toward the state's capital city.

It was a dangerous decision to make.

Interstates and roadways already packed with rush-hour traffic quickly became parking lots as people tried to escape the oncoming storm. Motor-

ists were trapped in their vehicles—a place emergency officials say is one of the worst to be in a tornado.

"It was chaos. People were going southbound in the north-bound lanes. Everybody was running for their lives," said Terri Black, 51, a teacher's assistant in Moore.

After seeing last month's tornado also turn homes into piles of splintered rubble, Black said she decided to try and outrun the tornado when she learned her southwest Oklahoma City home was in harm's way. She quickly regretted it.

When she realized she was a sitting duck in bumper-to-bumper traffic, Black turned around and found herself directly in the path of the most violent part of the storm.

"My car was actually lifted off the road and then set back

down," Black said. "The trees were leaning literally to the ground. The rain was coming down horizontally in front of my car. Big blue trash cans were being tossed around like a piece of paper in the wind.

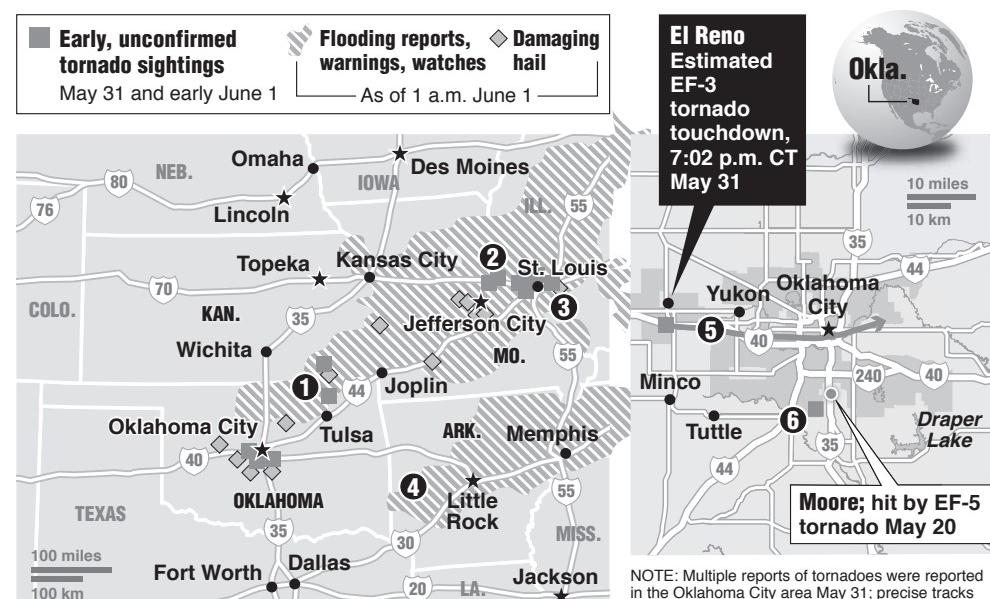
"I'll never do it again."

Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Betsy Randolph said the roadways were quickly congested with the convergence of rush-hour traffic and fleeing residents.

"They had no place to go, and that's always a bad thing. They were essentially targets just waiting for a tornado to touch down," Randolph said. "I'm not sure why people do that sort of stuff, but it is very dangerous. It not only puts them in harm's way, but it adds to the congestion. It really is a bad idea for folks to do."

Severe storms, tornadoes rattle Midwest

The last day of May and early hours of June 1 were rough on several Plains states as a line of severe storms battered Oklahoma City again, as well as residents of southeast Kansas, central Missouri and the St. Louis area. Five deaths were reported in Oklahoma City as of 1 a.m. June 1.



- 1 Tornadoes and golf-ball-sized hail reported in southeast Kansas near Coffeyville
- 2 Columbia, Mo., gets 4 in. (10 cm) of rain overnight on May 30 and May 31; Missouri River pushing past flood stage in several places
- 3 Rain and wind cause damage in Marissa, Ill., and the St. Louis metro area
- 4 Flash flooding has killed three people in Arkansas' Ouachita Mountains area
- 5 Tornado touches down at El Reno, Okla., hits Yukon, passes near downtown Oklahoma City
- 6 Tornado reportedly grazes Moore area and Draper Lake

Source: USGS, ESRI, TeleAtlas, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, KVOR-TV, Tulsa World, St. Louis Post Dispatch, AP

NOTE: Multiple reports of tornadoes were reported in the Oklahoma City area May 31; precise tracks not yet confirmed as of 1 a.m. June 1

Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2013 MCT

ACROSS THE NATION

Gov. Quinn open to Great Lakes-Mississippi split

MACKINAC ISLAND, Mich. (AP)—Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn said Saturday that separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems is the "ultimate solution" to prevent voracious Asian carp from overrunning the lakes, a potential step toward resolving a longstanding regional feud.

During a meeting with governors of several neighboring states, Quinn said it would be a massive and costly undertaking to rework the Chicago canal project that linked the two giant watersheds a cen-

tury ago. He defended Illinois' efforts to block the advance of silver and bighead carp toward the lakes by hiring commercial fishermen and operating an electric barrier, but acknowledged more needs to be done. "Ultimately, I think we have to separate the basins," Quinn said. "I really feel that is the ultimate solution."

Wildfire: NM fights blazes; Calif. area evacuated

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Fire crews in New Mexico fought two growing wild blazes Saturday that have driven people from their homes

and scorched thousands of acres, while a shift in the wind prompted evacuation calls for more than 1,000 homes in California. New Mexico officials said an uncontrolled blaze near Santa Fe had spread to nearly 10 square miles, making it apparently the largest of several wildfires burning in the West as it placed the city under a blanket of haze. The thick smoke also covered the Gallinas Canyon and Las Vegas, N.M. The fire in New Mexico's Santa Fe National Forest is burning just 25 miles from the city, prompting the Red Cross to set up an emergency shelter at a nearby high school.

Asia

China defends actions in maritime disputes

SINGAPORE (AP)—China on Sunday deflected criticism over its actions in several maritime disputes with its neighbors and defended its relationship with North Korea.

Lt-Gen. Qi Jianguo, deputy chief of the People's Liberation Army, reiterated at an annual security conference in Singapore that the Chinese government and military seek only peaceful development and that other countries should not view its strengthening military as a threat.

China is embroiled in a series of running disputes with its neighbors, including a high-profile one with Japan that has soured bilateral relations, and with several countries around the South China Sea who dispute China's claims to potentially oil-rich areas of the sea.

Beijing and Tokyo have been caught up in a long-running battle over what the Japanese call the Senkaku Islands and the Chinese call Diaoyutai. China recently asserted its dominance by sending government ships into Japanese territorial waters in April.

Qi said China was only safeguarding its sovereignty in its dispute with Japan, where both claim ownership over the islands, and with other countries

Pakistan's new lawmakers sworn in, face many tests

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Newly elected members of Pakistan's National Assembly were sworn in Saturday, officially marking the first transition of power between democratically elected civilian governments in the nearly 66-year history of this coup-prone country.

Among the steep challenges the legislators will face: massive energy shortages that leave some Pakistanis without power for up to 20 hours a day; a badly ailing economy that might force the Muslim-majority nation to seek an international bailout; and ongoing militant activity by Taliban and other extremists whose violence has killed thousands in the past decade and badly strained Pakistan's alliance with the United States.

Arriving at the Parliament building in Islamabad on a



The Shangri-La Dialogue

China's Lt. Gen. Qi Jianguo, Deputy Chief of General Staff, People's Liberation Army, delivers his speech at the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-la Dialogue, or IISS Asia Security Summit in Singapore, Sunday, June 2, 2013.

such as Vietnam and the Philippines in the South China Sea.

"We are very clear about that, so the Chinese warships and the patrolling activity are totally legitimate and it is uncontroversial to patrol within our territory," Qi said when being questioned by delegates.

Qi faced a series of pointed questions about China's growing military and regional as-

sertiveness, and joked that he thought he would have "an easier time than Chuck Hagel," the U.S. defense secretary who is also at the conference.

Qi repeated China's stance that it wanted to resolve the disputes through bilateral negotiations. Some of the countries want multilateral talks, feeling China's size is too much of an advantage in direct talks.

formalizing their membership.

The PML-N has captured 176 seats in the 342-member lower house of Parliament. The previous ruling Pakistan People's Party was crushed, earning just 39 seats.

Former cricket star Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party won 35 seats, and has pledged to act as a strong opposition. Khan, who is still recovering after fracturing three vertebrae and a rib when he fell off a forklift in the last few days of the campaign, did not attend Saturday's session.

The simple act of the oath-taking was historic in Pakistan, a country of 180 million that was carved out of India in 1947. For most of its history, military coups and other political turmoil prevented elected civilian governments from finishing their terms.

bright, hot day under tight security, the lawmakers were immediately mobbed by reporters. Among those in the spotlight was the incoming prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, whose Pakistan Muslim League-N handily won the May 11 elections.

"We are facing many challenges, but God willing, we will overcome them," said Sharif, who twice served as prime minister in the 1990s and was ousted in a 1999 military coup. The 63-year-old is expected to be sworn in as prime minister and appoint his Cabinet in the coming week.

Outgoing National Assembly Speaker Fehmida Mirza solemnly administered the oath to incoming legislators at noon. Afterward, lawmakers were called up to the front of the hall one by one to sign documents

to a bridge and water supply pipes in two villages, North Cotabato Governor Emmylou Tolentino-Mendoza said. It damaged a school in the hilly village of Kimadil where many residents remained jittery because of continuing aftershocks, said Mendoza, who added she scrambled out of her home like other villagers when the ground started to shake and objects fell off from shelves.

Japan \$1 billion aid earmarked for northern Africa

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP)—

Japan is providing 100 billion yen (\$1 billion) in aid over the next five years to northern Africa for economic development and humanitarian efforts, including help with security and counter-terrorism measures. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the assistance in a speech Sunday at a conference in Yokohama, near Tokyo, where officials from 50 African nations have gathered to talk about trade, growth and other issues. The \$1 billion is part of the 3.2 trillion yen (\$32 billion) in government and private-sector aid announced Saturday.

World

Rockets from Syria hit Hezbollah stronghold

BEIRUT (AP)—Eighteen rockets and mortars rounds from Syria slammed into Lebanon on Saturday, the largest cross-border salvo to hit a Hezbollah stronghold since Syrian rebels threatened to retaliate for the Lebanese militant group's armed support of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The rockets targeted the Baalbek region, the latest sign that Syria's civil war is increasingly destabilizing Lebanon. On Friday, the Lebanese parliament decided to put off general elections, originally scheduled for June, by 17 months, blaming a deteriorating security situation in the country.

In Qatar, an influential Sunni Muslim cleric whose TV show is watched by millions across the region, fanned the sectarian flames ignited by the Syria conflict and urged Sunnis everywhere to join the fight against Assad.

"I call on Muslims everywhere to help their brothers be victorious," Yusuf al-Qaradawi

said in his Friday sermon in the Qatari capital of Doha. "If I had the ability I would go and fight with them."

"Everyone who has the ability and has training to kill ... is required to go," said al-Qaradawi, who is in his 80s. "We cannot ask our brothers to be killed while we watch."

He denounced Assad's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, as "more infidel than Christians and Jews" and Shiite Muslim Hezbollah as "the party of the devil."

He said there is no more common ground between Sunnis and Sunnis, alleging that Shiite Iran—a longtime Syria ally that has supplied the regime with cash and weapons—is trying to "devour" Sunnis.

The Syrian conflict, now in its third year, has taken on dark sectarian overtones. It has escalated from a local uprising into a civil war and is not increasingly shifting into a proxy war.

Predominantly Sunni reb-

els backed by Sunni states Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey are fighting against a regime that relies on support from Alawites, Shiites and Christians at home, and is aided by Iran and Hezbollah. The Syria conflict is also part of a wider battle between Saudi Arabia and Iran for regional influence.

Sunni fighters from Iraq and Lebanon have crossed into Syria to help those fighting Assad, while Shiites from Iraq have joined the battle on the regime's side.

Sectarian tensions rose sharply when Hezbollah stepped up its involvement in the war in mid-May by joining a regime offensive against the rebel-held Syrian town of Qusair, about 10 kilometers (six miles) from Lebanon. The town has since become one of the war's major military and political flashpoints, with international concern growing over civilians believed to be trapped there.

Protesters swarm Istanbul square after clashes

ISTANBUL (AP)—In a scene reminiscent of the Arab Spring, thousands of people on Saturday flooded Istanbul's main square after a crackdown on an anti-government protest turned city streets into a battlefield clouded by tear gas.

Though he offered some concessions to demonstrators, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan remained largely defiant in the face of the biggest popular challenge to his power in a decade in office, insisting the protests are undemocratic and illegitimate.

Turkish authorities later removed barricades and allowed thousands of demonstrators into the square in an effort to calm tension. Sounding defiant even as he bowed to protesters and pulled back police, Erdogan promised to stick to the government's redevelopment plans—which protesters fear will remove one of the few green spaces in the sprawling city.

As the furious protests entered its second day, police fired tear gas and turned on water cannons at angry demonstrators, some of whom threw rocks and bottles on their march toward Taksim. In an area normally abuzz with tourists, stores were shuttered and protesters fled into luxury hotels for shelter. There were hundreds of arrests and injured.

Public anger has flared among urban and secular Turks after police violently broke up an anti-development sit-in in the landmark Taksim Square, with protests spreading to dozens of other cities as demonstrators denounced what they see as Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian style.

He called the protesters a "minority" that was trying to forcefully impose demands

Spike in violence in Iraq has echoes in the past

BAGHDAD (AP)—More than a year after the U.S.-led invasion of 2003 that toppled Saddam Hussein's Sunni-led regime and propelled the Shiites to power.

unleashed by the U.S.-led invasion of 2003 that toppled Saddam Hussein's Sunni-led regime and propelled the Shiites to power.

Adding to the tension is the civil war in neighboring Syria, where Sunni rebels are seeking to topple Bashar Assad's government, dominated by a spinout of the Shiite faith and backed by Shiite powerhouse Iran.

But the Iraq of 2013 is different from the country seven years ago. The Shiite government is more firmly entrenched in Baghdad. The Sunnis are divided and weakened from setbacks they suffered in the last sectarian war.

Violence is on the rise but far short of the levels when death

squads roamed the streets.

Clearly, many Iraqis are still worried.

"I see no solution on the horizon in a country that is full of political and sectarian disputes," said Ali Abdullah, who has blocked parking in front of his mobile phone store in Baghdad's sprawling Shiite district of Sadr City to protect against car bombs.

Mohammad Majeed, a Baghdad businessman in the mixed Sunni-Shiite neighborhood of Jihad, is considering fleeing the country.

"Terror is returning to us," Majeed said. "I survived the first round. I don't want to take my chances with a second one."

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH quake injures 9 people, damages houses

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An earthquake rattled a province in the southern Philippines as people slept, injuring at least nine people, damaging dozens of houses and setting off a landslide that partially blocked a road with boulders, officials said Sunday. The quake, which had a magnitude of 5.7, struck North Cotabato province and nearby regions late Saturday, causing the injuries, including to children, and damaging more than 30 houses, the approach

Focus

O SAKA, Japan (AP)—More than 70 years ago, at age 14, Kim Bok-dong was ordered to work by Korea's Japanese occupiers. She was told she was going to a military uniform factory, but ended up at a Japanese military-linked brothel in southern China.

She had to take an average of 15 soldiers per day during the week, and dozens over the weekend. At the end of the day she would be bleeding and could not even stand because of the pain. She and other girls were closely watched by guards and could not escape. It was a secret she carried for decades; the man she later married died without ever knowing.

Tens of thousands of women had similar stories to tell, or to hide, from Japan's occupation of much of Asia before and during World War II. Many are no longer living, and those who remain are still waiting for Japan to offer reparations and a more complete apology than it has so far delivered.

"I'm here today, not because I wanted to but because I had to," Kim, now 87, told a packed audience of mostly Japanese at a community center in Osaka over the weekend. "I came here to ask Japan to settle its past wrongdoing. I hope the Japanese government resolves the problem as soon as possible while we elderly women are still alive."

The issue of Japan's use of Korean, Chinese and Southeast Asian women and girls as sex slaves—euphemistically called "comfort women"—continues to alienate Tokyo from its neighbors nearly 70 years after the war's end. It is a wound that was made fresh this month when the co-head of an emerging nationalistic party, Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto, said "comfort women" had been necessary to maintain military discipline and give respite to battle-weary troops.

His comments drew outrage from South Korea and China, as well as from the U.S. State Department, which called them "outrageous and offensive."

Hashimoto provided no evidence but insisted that Tokyo has been unfairly singled out for its World War II behavior regarding women, saying some other armies at the time had military brothels. None of them, however, has been accused of the kind of widespread, organized sexual slavery that has been linked to Japan's military.

Historians say up to 200,000 women from across Asia, including China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as the Netherlands, were forced to provide sex for Japanese soldiers.

To many people, even within Japan, Hashimoto's comments suggest that even after all these years, Japanese leaders don't want to fully acknowledge wartime wrongs and are out of



AP

In this May 25, 2013 file photo, South Korean former sex slaves Kim Bok-dong, right, and Kil Won-ok, left, react to the supporters after a meeting in Osaka, western Japan, Saturday, May 25, 2013.

touch with the sentiments not only of their neighbors and the international community, but also many of their own citizens.

"It's not a problem of the past. It's a continuing problem that involves people who are still alive," said Koichi Nakano, a Sophia University political science professor. "Japan is perceived as merely waiting for them to die while looking the other way and dragging its feet. That looks bad from a humanity point of view."

According to a survey conducted over the weekend by the conservative Sankei newspaper and FNN television, more than 75 percent of Japanese said Hashimoto's sex slave remarks were inappropriate, while support for his party slumped to 6.4 percent—nearly half what it was last month.

The comments come amid rising concerns in the region over the nationalistic shift in Japan's political leadership under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe,

Anguish from Japan's sex slave legacy unsettled

who has suggested he wants to revise Japan's past apologies for its wartime aggression and change its pacifist constitution.

In 1993, Japan officially apologized to "comfort women" in a landmark statement by then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, acknowledging "immeasurable pain and incurable physical and psychological wounds."

In South Korea, 207 women formally came forward and were recognized as eligible recipients. But only a fraction actually accepted the money because of criticism

of the private fund. Instead they receive support from the South Korean government and a support group.

In Japan, public sentiment has become less compassionate in recent years toward Asian victims of the country's wartime aggression. References to "comfort women" once in school history textbooks have disappeared.

Much of the debate over "comfort women" still focuses on what role the government at the time played in organizing brothels, and if—or to what extent—the women were coerced. The Kono statement says the military was involved directly or indirectly in the establishment and management of front-line brothels and transfer of women, and that many women were in many cases "recruited against their own will through coaxing and coercion."

Nobuo Ishihara, who was then deputy Cabinet secretary, said in March 2006 that interviews with 16 South Korean women in Seoul led to the conclusion that there was coercion though there were no official documents showing so.

"After interviewing the 16 comfort women, we came to believe that what they were saying could not be fabrication. We thought there was no doubt they were forced to become comfort women against their will," Ishihara said. "Based on the investigation team's report, we, as the government, concluded that there was coercion."

The government investigation also found that many of the Dutch victims were selected from concentration camps and forcibly sent to brothels, while those in the Philippines and Indonesia were raped at battlefronts, kidnapped and forced to

provide sex under confinement.

Hashimoto, 43, sought to calm the uproar Monday, telling a packed news conference that he personally didn't condone using "comfort women," which he labeled a violation of human rights.

But he repeatedly insisted that Japan's wartime government did not systematically force girls and women into prostitution, although he acknowledged that some may have been deceived and coerced. He said the historical record isn't clear, which is similar to Abe's view that there is no proof the women were coerced as a result of a state order. He said historians from both Japan and South Korea should settle the matter.

Hashimoto acknowledged that this murkiness probably is the key stumbling block in Japan's ties with South Korea.

Chuo University historian Yoshiaki Yoshimi, one of Japan's most respected experts on "comfort women," criticized the Japanese government for taking an extremely narrow interpretation of what constitutes coercion.

He said documents show "comfort women" recruited in Japan were mostly adult professionals, although many had been sold into the sex industry by their poor families. However, in Asian countries invaded by Japan, there was no consideration of the rights of minors or the right to quit, which he said should constitute coercion by international standards.

"Neither Prime Minister Abe nor Mayor Hashimoto has tried to look at how those girls and young women were abused. Their view is worlds apart from the international view," he said.

Kim was dragged across Asia, from Hong Kong to Singapore and Indonesia, until the end of the war in 1945. She was freed in Singapore and returned home in 1946. She later was married but—like most former sex slaves—was never able to reveal her past to anyone but her mother—until decades later.

"Even as I returned to my homeland, it never was a true liberation for me," she told listeners at the community center. "How could I tell anyone what had happened to me during the war? It was living with a big lump in my chest."

She finally broke her silence several years after her husband died in 1981. Later she joined a group of women seeking official recognition as victims of Japan's sex slavery.

Kim has since traveled around the world to tell her story and participates in weekly protests in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul.

Health & Fitness

Are nutritional labels coming on alcoholic drinks?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Alcoholic beverages soon could have nutritional labels like those on food packaging, but only if the producers want to put them there.

The Treasury Department, which regulates alcohol, said this past week that beer, wine and spirits companies can use

labels that include serving size, servings per container, calories, carbohydrates, protein and fat per serving. Such package labels have never been approved.

The labels are voluntary, so it will be up to beverage companies to decide whether to use them on their products.

The decision is a temporary, first step while the Alcohol and Tobacco Trade and Tax Bureau, or TTB, continues to consider final rules on alcohol labels. Rules proposed in 2007 would have made labels mandatory, but the agency never made the rules final.

The labeling regulation, issued May 28, comes after a decade of lobbying by hard liquor companies and consumer groups, with clearly different goals.

The liquor companies want to advertise low calories and low carbohydrates in their products. Consumer groups want alcoholic drinks to have the same transparency as packaged foods, which are required to be labeled.

"This is actually bringing alcoholic beverages into the modern era," says Guy Smith, an executive vice president at Diageo, the world's largest distiller and maker of such well-known brands as Johnnie Walker, Smirnoff, Jose Cuervo and Tanqueray.

Diageo asked the bureau in 2003 to allow the company to add that information to its products as low-carbohydrate diets were gaining in popularity.

Almost 10 years later, Smith said he expects Diageo gradually to put the new labels on all of its products, which include a small number of beer and wine companies.

"It's something consumers have come to expect," Smith said. "In time, it's going to be,

why isn't it there?"

Not all alcohol companies are expected to use labels. Among those that may take a pass are beer companies, which don't want consumers counting calories, and winemakers, which don't want to ruin the sleek look of their bottles.

The Wine Institute, which represents more than a thousand California wineries, said in a statement that it supports the ruling but "experience suggests that such information is not a key factor in consumer purchase decisions about wine."

Spokeswoman Gladys Horuchi said the group knows of no wine companies that plan to use the new labels.

The beer industry praised the agency for acknowledging that labels should take into account variations in the concentration of alcohol content in different products.

The industry has opposed the idea of defining serving size by fluid ounces of pure alcohol—or as 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof liquor—on the grounds that you may get more than 1.5 ounces of liquor in a cocktail depending on what else is in the drink and the accuracy of the bartender.

The ruling would allow the labels to declare alcohol content as a percentage of alcohol by volume, the approach favored by the beer industry.

"We applaud the TTB's conclusion that rules be based on how drinks are actually served and consumed," said Joe McClain, president of the Beer Institute.

McClain said the beer industry is pleased that the ruling provides "substantial flexibility" in terms of the format and placement of the disclosure on packaging.

It is unclear whether beer companies will actually use

the labels, however.

Consumer advocates criticized the regulation.

"It doesn't reflect any concern about public health," said Michael Jacobson, director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest. He said the rules are too close to what the alcohol companies had sought.

Consumer advocates have said that listing alcohol content should be mandatory so consumers know how much they are drinking. Jacobson and others also support having calorie counts on labels, but they said the labels should not include nutrients that make the alcohol seem more like a food.

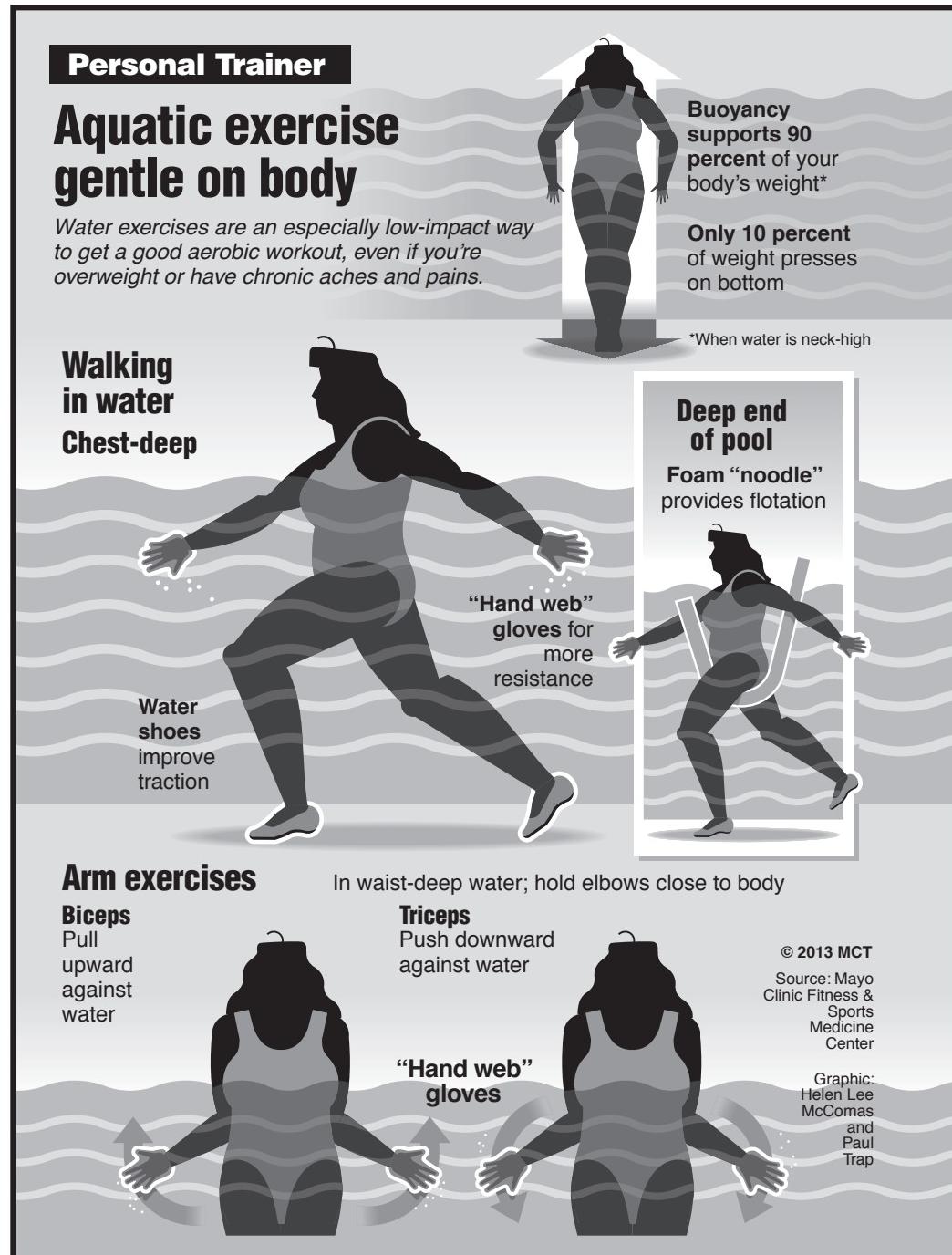
"Including fat and carbohydrates on a label could imply that an alcoholic beverage is positively healthful, especially when the drink's alcohol content isn't prominently labeled," Jacobson said.

Current labeling law is complicated.

Wines containing 14 percent or more alcohol by volume must list alcohol content. Wines that are 7 percent to 14 percent alcohol by volume may list alcohol content or put "light" or "table" wine on the label. "Light" beers must list calorie and carbohydrate content only. Liquor must list alcohol content by volume and may also list proof, a measure of alcoholic strength.

Wine, beer and liquor manufacturers don't have to list ingredients but must list substances people might be sensitive to, such as sulfites, certain food colorings and aspartame.

Tom Hogue of the TTB said the aim of the ruling is to make sure alcohol labeling is more consistent. "The idea here is we are trying to make it easy for the industry to communicate this with consumers if they want to do so, and if their consumers want them to do it," he said.



Alternatives to body mass index

Although the body mass index is a well-known and simple way to estimate a person's body fat, it is not the only way, nor is it the most accurate. These are some alternative methods of measurement, each with strengths and weaknesses.



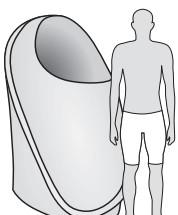
Bioelectric impedance

How it works

This method measures how much water a person contains by sending a small current of electricity through the body; amount of water approximates the body's fat-free mass, from which body fat can be estimated.

Considerations

Height, water retention, health and other variables can affect results; equipment necessary is expensive and may not be practical for use in schools.



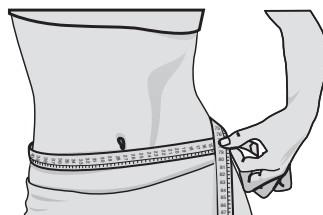
Densitometry

How it works

A person's body density is calculated from his weight and volume, measured by a device that detects how much air or water the body displaces; formulas have been developed to estimate body fat from density, as the proportion of fat-free mass in the body is similar from person to person.

Considerations

Because of the cost of the machines and the skills needed to operate them, densitometry may be impractical in schools.



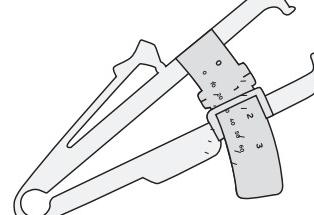
Waist circumference

How it works

This simple method measures only concentration of fat in the abdomen, but it is useful in determining possible risk for diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol and heart conditions.

Considerations

Waist circumference measurements work well with BMI in helping predict disease; however, the method does not take into account factors, such as height.



Skinfold thickness

How it works

Calipers are used to measure folds of skin on different parts of a person's body; thicker folds mean more body fat in those locations; method is effective for subjects of any age.

Considerations

Skinfold measurements apply only to specific parts of the body and cannot be used to calculate overall body fat; people can find the process invasive, and specialized training is needed to conduct the tests.

Italy confirms 3 cases of new respiratory virus

ROME (AP)—Three people were being treated Saturday for a new respiratory virus that is alarming global health officials, in the first cases in Italy, the country's health ministry said.

A 45-year-old man who had recently returned from a 40-day visit to Jordan was hospitalized in Tuscany with a high fever, cough and respiratory problems, the ministry said. Tuscan regional officials say that a young child who is related to the man and a work colleague also have the virus, the ministry said.

Thirty of those cases were fatal, including that of a Frenchman who died earlier in the week. Cases in Britain and Germany also have been reported. Most of those infected had traveled to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan or Pakistan.

tion and were being treated in isolation.

The virus is related to SARS, which killed about 800 people in a global epidemic in 2003. The U.N. health agency said earlier Saturday that it had been informed of 51 confirmed cases of the new virus since September.

Most of those infected had traveled to Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan or Pakistan.

Life & Style

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library marks 20 years

By REINA S. PEREZ
STUDENT REPORTER

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library celebrated its 20th anniversary on Saturday with a series of whole-day activities and by recognizing its many supporters throughout the years.

Keynote speaker Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei, a founding member, said the public library was a gift and that its 20 years have been "two decades of nurturing lives and building knowledge."

Rechebei hopes that the public library will become a gathering place of cultural as well as scholarly events. She recommended to the library advisory board to "convene a group to develop a 10-year action plan to enhance and support information resources and technology in the CNMI."

Special guests in present during the celebration included acting governor Jude U. Hofsneider, Delegate Kilili C. Sablan, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, U.S. District Court Judge Ramona Manglona, Mark O. Rabauliman, chair-

man of the state library council; and Fr. Jesse T. Reyes, pastor of the San Jose Parish, among many others.

The festivities started with the U.S. and CNMI anthems performed by the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band led by William DeWitt. After Rechebei's keynote address, the CNMI library council and Joeten Kiyu Public Library's benefactors' families, founders, and dignitaries met at the library entrance to commence the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the library's new roof.

Board members and officials also presented plaques of appreciation to the library's Educational Tax Credit donors, founders, and partners. One of the library's founders, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises president Clarence Tenorio Sr., was presented with an appreciation trophy by the CNMI Library Council.

Music and fun activities followed, with the Carolinian cultural dance by the Chalan Kanoa San Isidro Youth Center and by the Ataktak Group, the Umang Glee Club by Koblerville Elementary School, a



The CNMI Library Council and Joeten Kiyu Public Library's benefactors' families, founders, and dignitaries cut the ribbon to inaugurate the library's new roof.

REINA S. PEREZ

magic show, a Chamorro cultural dance by the Marianas High School Poksai Chamorro Club, ukulele students led by Larry Lee, and island music by Mar-

vin DeLeon Guerrero, Parker Yobei, and Maggie Naputi.

The Big Truck Exhibits by the Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the

MATUA rider's exhibit were a big hit among the families and children at the event.

Several local authors also held book signings and showed

off their latest work. There were also exhibit and display booths, health and wellness booth, and the cultural demonstration booth.



Founders and the CNMI library council pose at the public library's entrance.

REINA S. PEREZ



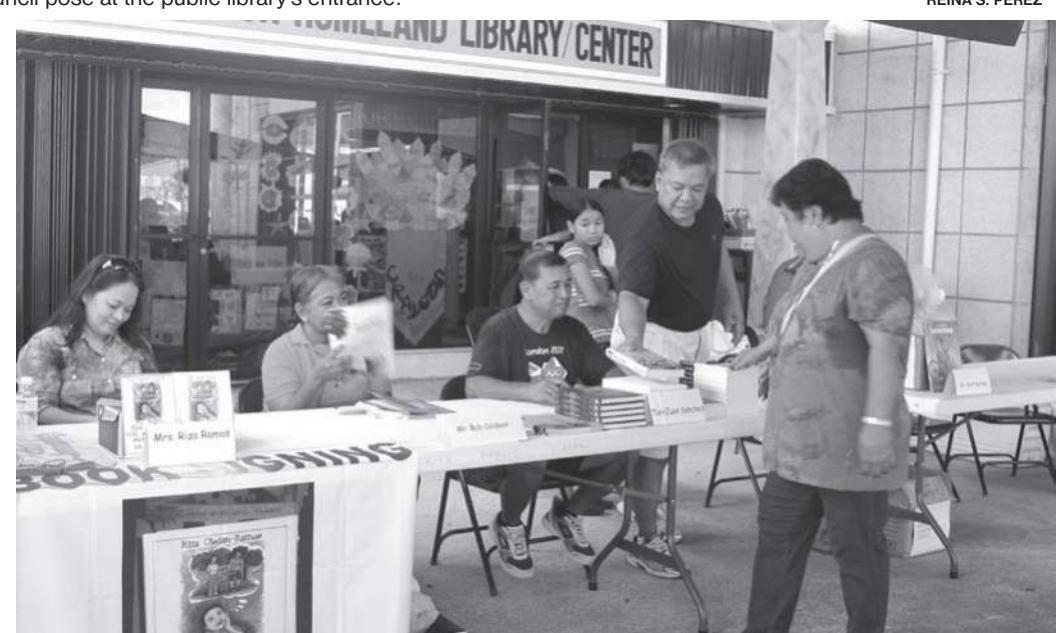
One of the library's founders, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises president Clarence Tenorio Sr., is given an appreciation trophy by CNMI Library Council's Soledad Tenorio.

REINA S. PEREZ



Girls perform a Carolinian cultural dance at the public library's 20th anniversary celebration.

REINA S. PEREZ



Local authors sign books at the public library's 20th anniversary celebration.

REINA S. PEREZ

Molecular mixologists raising the bar on cocktails

By MICHELLE LOCKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bartender Tony Conigliaro's new beverage book is called "The Cocktail Lab," and he's not speaking figuratively.

Among the equipment at his London-based Drink Factory consulting business are a centrifuge (the better to filter macerated liquids), a cold smoker and smoke gun (for smoking garnishes as well as syrup ingredients), and a refractometer to measure exact alcohol levels. Not quite your standard issue bar gear.

For Conigliaro, molecular mixology started with people asking questions. "And the more questions people asked you kind of got to points where the only places where you could find the answers were either in the chemistry of food or the science of how it works," he says.

"For years and years all we've ever had is recipes passed down and you get shown how to make them and shown what they should be like and how they should taste, but it was scratching below the surface of that and seeing what was actually going on that really proved to be of interest for us."

Kevin K. Liu, author of "Craft Cocktails at Home," sees cocktail chemistry as something that fits into his overarching interest in how science can improve everyday life, something he began exploring while studying technology policy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"All of the regular tools of molecular cooking are in play: they're Cryovacing (putting in vacuum-sealed packaging) and slow cooking ingredients, smoke-infusing liquors, carbonating drinks, barrel-aging cocktails, centrifuging juices

to get clear liquids, infusing liquors with unexpected ingredients, and using rotary evaporators to get strongly flavored distillates," says Erica Duecy, cocktail historian and author of the upcoming book "Storied Sips." "The high-end bar has become as devoted to this equipment and these techniques as the kitchen."

Conigliaro, a renowned British bartender, is a pioneer in so-called molecular mixology, but he's got a lot of company these days as more bartenders on both sides of the Atlantic work on elevating the art of the cocktail into a science.

And an ordinary day in the lab "can involve thermo-mixing, sous-vide, dehydrating—even stripping bark from trees," Conigliaro writes in the introduction to the book, due out in July.

Jean Stapleton, TV's Edith Bunker, dies at 90



Co-stars Art Carney, left, and Jean Stapleton stand together during a rehearsal for the play "You Can't Take It With You" in Los Angeles on May 14, 1979. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jean Stapleton's Edith Bunker was such a dithery charmer that we had to love her. And because she loved her bombastic husband Archie, we made room for him and TV's daring "All in the Family."

It took an actress as smart and deft as Stapleton to create the character that Archie called "dingbat," giving a tender core to a sitcom that tested viewers with its bigoted American family man

and blunt take on social issues.

Stapleton, 90, who died Friday of natural causes at her New York City home, was the sweet, trusting counterpoint to Carroll O'Connor's irascible Archie on the 1970s groundbreaking show from producers Norman Lear and Bud Yorkin.

"No one gave more profound 'How to be a Human Being' lessons than Jean Stapleton," Lear said Saturday. While Edith faced problems, includ-

ing a breast cancer scare, with strength, it was the demanding Archie who presented her greatest challenge. Stapleton made her much more than a doormat, but the actress was concerned about what the character might convey.

Edith's flighty manner, cheerfully high-pitched voice and family loyalty enchanted viewers, while Stapleton viewed her as oppressed and, she hoped, removed from reality.



In this image taken on May 22, 2013, a sweet broiled lemon margarita is shown in Concord, N.H. AP

ogy. "I wrote the book about cocktails because I thought this was a field where bartenders and customers alike could benefit from some simple scientific knowledge, but I think the concept applies to many other fields as well," he says.

The best of the new breed of drinks look like regular cocktails but "taste like nothing you've tried before," says Duecy. Bartenders like Dave Arnold at Booker & Dax in

New York are developing new techniques like nitro-muddling (flash-freezing fresh herbs with liquid nitrogen, then crushing them into a powder and incorporating it into the cocktail). What you get—intense herb flavor. What you don't get—herbs stuck in your teeth.

And in San Diego, Erick Castro of Polite Provisions, a new bar, works with carbonation so the cocktails are premixed and come out of a kegerator, a refrigerated dispenser, like beer or soda.

One of the best molecular cocktails Duecy has tried was at Eleven Madison Park in New York, where bartenders used liquid nitrogen to make a frozen gin sorbet, which they then mixed with bing cherry syrup and grapefruit juice and topped with Pop Rocks. "The drink is refreshing and clean, yet invigorating and fun with those Pop Rocks crackling

in your mouth. Surprise and delight is the reaction molecular mixologists are going for, and that's what this drink delivered."

New tools open up new possibilities. For instance, a rotary evaporator is a piece of lab equipment that lets you "boil" water or alcohol at low temperatures. You can put orange juice in and end up with orange water and orange-flavored jam, "both of which would taste clean and fresh," says Liu. Alternatively, you could put in bourbon and end with a super high-proof distillate of bourbon and bourbon-flavored powder.

Still, while gadgetry can produce new flavors, it takes a skilled bartender to balance those flavors, notes Liu.

Conigliaro would agree. He may create his cocktails in a lab-like setting, but he serves them in an atmosphere that's anything but clinical. The menu at his Bar 69 in Isling-

ton, North London, has just 12 cocktails, three wines and Champagnes, and one beer. The gee-whiz techniques are generally out of sight, though customers who want to know what went into a drink are welcome to ask.

Conigliaro rather likes the idea, he writes in "Cocktail Lab," that "the rest will contentedly sip on a Bloody Mary, blissfully unaware that it took two years to perfect each individual component of their drink."

Want to up your home bartending game? Here are some tips.

■ Duecy: Make sure you're using top quality ingredients, i.e., no shriveled limes. Try infusing liquors or wines with fruit, herbs and even vegetables. Start with vodka until you get familiar with the length of time and results you'll get from certain ingredients. To a vodka-filled jam jar, just drop in some ingredients, and leave the infusion on the counter. Try spices (cardamom, black pepper, horseradish), fruit (pineapple, lemon peel, berries), and vegetables (beets, celery).

■ Liu: Get some gear. Start with a water filter (Why would you fill up half a cocktail with poor-tasting water?). Then get a dual infrared/probe thermometer. Use it to check temperatures, from how cold your freezer gets to whether you've stirred a drink long enough.

■ Conigliaro: Source your ingredients well. Look at not just what you find on the supermarket shelf, but go that little bit further and find those spirits and cordials. Compare one gin to another. Compare your Beefeater to your Tanqueray and see how the drink works and make choices off the back of that. That's how you really kind of understand

Jailed Pussy Riot member ends hunger strike

MOSCOW (AP)—A jailed member of the punk group Pussy Riot has ended her 11-day hunger strike Saturday after prison authorities met her demands, an activist said.

Maria Alekhina had complained that officials at her prison colony in the Ural Mountains attempted to turn fellow inmates against her with a security crackdown.

Inmates, who could previously enter and leave their workplace freely, had to wait for up to an hour for prison guards to escort them.

Pyotr Verzilov, the husband of Alekhina's jailed band mate Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, told The Associated Press that Alekhina called Saturday to say she has ended her action after prison officials restored the nor-

mal security regime.

Verzilov said authorities took Alekhina, who was hospitalized Tuesday, on a tour across the prison colony, so that she sees that all extra security measures

were removed. The extra security meant that inmates were denied prompt medical care when they sustained injuries during their work sewing uniforms.

"It looks improbable, it's not in the tradition of the prison system here to make any concessions," Verzilov said. "There must have been a political decision."

Alekhina's lawyer, Irina Khrunova, confirmed to the AP that she ended the hunger strike, but gave no further details.

Alekhina and Tolokonnikova are serving two-year sentences over an irreverent punk pro-

test against Vladimir Putin in Moscow's main cathedral. The third band member convicted alongside them, Yekaterina Samutsevich, was later released on appeal.

Courts have denied parole to Alekhina and Tolokonnikova, who are serving their sentence in different prison colonies.

Alekhina earlier spent five months in solitary confinement after claiming that officials deliberately lodged her with hardened criminals, including a convicted murderer, and encouraged them to intimidate her.

In a complaint filed in January, Khrunova wrote that officials did nothing after seeing criminals threaten Alekhina with violence. The lawyer said officials also wrote false psychiatric reports and pushed Alekhina into violating colony rules.



AP source: Bruno Mars' mother dies at age 55

NEW YORK (AP)—The mother of Grammy-winning pop star Bruno Mars has died in Hawaii.

Bernadette Hernandez died Saturday of a brain aneurysm, according to a publicist for Mars' label, Atlantic Records, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak on the record.

Hernandez was 55 years old. She died in Honolulu at Queens Medical Center; no other information was given.

Mars is one of pop's top acts with several No. 1 hits including his most recent, "When I Was Your Man." His mother, a hula dancer and a singer who immigrated from the Philippines, nurtured her son's interest in music at an early age.

Beyoncé headlines London charity concert for women

LONDON (AP)—Beyoncé and a few famous friends—including John Legend, Jennifer Lopez and Madonna—turned the home of English rugby into a fortress for women's rights at a star-studded charity concert.

Beyoncé headlined a concert at Twickenham rugby stadium in London in support of Chime for Change, a campaign set up to help empower girls and women around the world.

The singer, sporting a slinky leather body suit, had the 50,000-strong crowd in a frenzy when she performed "Crazy In Love"—joined onstage by husband Jay-Z.

She also performed hits including "Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)," "Run The World (Girls)," "Halo" and the Destiny's Child classic "Survivor."

"It's time for change. Let's chime for change. This is such an incredible night for me," said the 31-year-old star.

Earlier, Simon Le Bon performed with Timbaland, and J-Lo and Mary J. Blige sang The Beatles' "Come Together," as a raft of stars united for the Sound of Change Live show, which also featured John Legend, Florence + The Machine and Rita Ora.

Madonna, Freida Pinto, Aishwarya Rai, Jada Pinkett Smith, James Franco, Ryan Reynolds, Jessica Chastain and feminist icon Gloria Steinem were among the presenters. Even Prince Harry sent a videotaped message of support.

Beyoncé is co-founder, with actress-producer Salma Hayek Pinault and Gucci creative director Frida Giannini, of the charity, which supports projects improving access to education, health care and justice for women.

Partner organizations include UNICEF, the Global Fund for Women and Plan International.

Giannini said she was grateful for Prince Harry's involvement, because "it's very important in projects like that, talking about women that some very strong male personalities are with us."

Hayek Pinault said Beyoncé was the best possible ambassador for the cause.



In this Feb. 12, 2012 file photo, Bruno Mars arrives at the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Wife: Lou Reed recovering after liver transplant

LONDON (AP)—Rock icon Lou Reed is recovering after a life-saving liver transplant in the U.S., according to an interview with his wife published Saturday in a British newspaper.

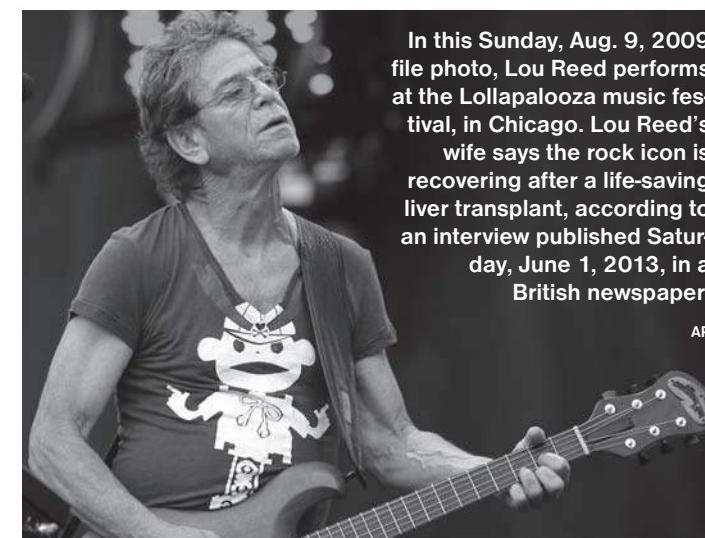
Laurie Anderson told the Times of London that Reed "was dying" before the operation several weeks ago at Ohio's Cleveland Clinic.

She said 71-year-old Reed isn't back to full strength, but "he's already working and doing t'ai chi."

"I don't think he'll every totally recover from this, but he'll certainly be back to doing (things) in a few months," she said.

"I'm very happy. It's a new life for him."

Anderson, a musician and performance artist, praised the Cleveland facility—one of the leading transplant centers in the U.S.—and said hospitals in the



In this Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009 file photo, Lou Reed performs at the Lollapalooza music festival, in Chicago. Lou Reed's wife says the rock icon is recovering after a life-saving liver transplant, according to an interview published Saturday, June 1, 2013, in a British newspaper.

AP

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CENTURY INSURANCE : CASE NO.

COMPANY, LTD. : 12-0171

Plaintiff, :
-v- :
PETER JOHN LEONG-AGUON, :
Defendant. :
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to serve any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this summons upon you. You may answer by filing a copy with the Clerk of Court, and thereafter delivering a copy of your answer to the Law Office of Vincent J. Seman, 3rd Floor TSL Plaza, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan or mailing it at P.O. Box 501280, Saipan, MP 96950.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Superior Court, Guma Hustisa, Susupe, Saipan MP. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file or serve an answer in accordance with the Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

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Pacers even up series with 91-77 win over Heat



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indiana staggered Miami with one more big punch Saturday night.

Now the Pacers have a fighting chance to pull off a stunning playoff upset.

Roy Hibbert did everything but pull out the boxing gloves in Game 6, finishing with 24 points and 11 rebounds, and continually contesting Miami's shots to help Indiana stave off elimination with an emphatic 91-77 victory over the defending champs.

Paul George scored 28 points, had eight rebounds and five assists, and the Pacers held Miami to 36.1 percent shooting as they booked a trip back to Miami for Game 7 on Monday night.

"Myself and David (West), we throw ourselves in the fray, in the paint. We like to muck it up," Hibbert said. "Paul and myself, we wanted to make sure we got this for him as well. We didn't want this to be our last game."

It wasn't.

Instead, after winning their first division crown since 2004, the Pacers are one win away from advancing to the NBA Finals for only the second time in franchise history. They lost to the Lakers 4-2 in 2000. They haven't played a decisive seventh game in the conference finals since losing to Chicago in 1998.

And amazingly, they've done it this time against the defending champions who many considered virtually invincible after winning 27 straight during the regular season, finishing with a franchise-record 66 wins and having won 23 of their last 24 road games before losing Games 4 and 6 in Indianapolis.

But the Pacers have pushed four-time MVP LeBron James and his high-scoring, high-profile teammates to the brink of elimination by punching back, and Game 6 followed a familiar story line. The Pacers had a 53-33 rebounding advantage, outscored Miami 44-22 in the paint and limited Miami's shooters to 16 of 54, 29.6 percent, from inside the arc.

James led the Heat with 29 points on



AP
Indiana Pacers center Roy Hibbert reacts on the bench during the second half of Game 6 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Miami Heat in Indianapolis, Saturday, June 1, 2013.

10-of-21 shooting. Nobody else scored more than 10.

How have the Pacers done it? With Hibbert controlling the inside after adding MMA training to his offseason regimen.

"Roy Hibbert is making extraordinary plays in the pocket, poise in the pocket we call it," coach Frank Vogel said. "He's

getting paint catches and just having great poise, great reads. He's not plowing over guys. He had a charge in Game 5, but has been under control."

It was everything an elimination game should be. The teams traded baskets and jabs, sometimes literally, and players ignored the bumps and bruises of yet another wrestling match that has made this

tough-guy series compelling.

Both teams attacked the basket, sometimes with problematic results. Indiana missed about five dunk attempts in the first half and a series of short jumpers, too, costing them precious points.

The Heat struggled, meanwhile, starting the game just 3 of 22 from inside the 3-point line. Miami's Big Three—James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh—went just 14 of 40. Excluding James, Miami managed only 16 baskets—eight 3s and eight 2s.

With Chris "Birdman" Andersen suspended for the game because of a shoving incident with Indiana forward Tyler Hansbrough on Thursday, the Heat couldn't keep up with Indiana's big rebounders inside. Even Lance Stephenson, who was not effective at Miami, finished with four points, 12 rebounds and four assists.

Indiana's loud crowd created a hostile atmosphere, too. Fans chanted "Heat Are Floppers!" sporadically throughout the second half, urging the Pacers to play harder, to defend better and to make another trip home. The only way to do that is to win Game 7 and avoid a second straight playoff elimination at the hands of the Heat.

For Miami, the stakes were so high that when James was called for an offensive foul midway through the fourth quarter, he lost his cool. James protested by running from one end of the court to the other, drawing a technical foul, and when Miami assistant coach David Fizdale showed his support for the league's four-time MVP, it drew another technical.

George Hill answered by making free throws and Hibbert followed that with a layup, ending any chance of Miami making a late comeback.

James said he was trying to avoid an ejection and would up spending the last 66 seconds sitting a few seats down from the Heat bench cheering on his teammates.

"Explain it? You seen it. It was total

domination by the Pacers in the third," James said when asked what happened to the league's most dominant team on Saturday. "They made a lot of shots, we didn't get too many stops and we missed some very, very easy shots."

It was a complete reversal from Game 5, when Miami took control by outscoring the Pacers 30-13 in the third.

This time, against one of the league's top offensive teams, the Pacers gave up only six points in the first eight minutes of the quarter, using a 14-2 run to turn a 40-39 halftime deficit into a 66-49 lead with 1:15 left in the quarter. Hibbert scored nine in the quarter.

Miami did close to within 68-55 after three, but it was too big a deficit to overcome—even with James running the show.

"They just flat-out beat us in every facet of the game. They just outclassed us in that (third) quarter," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said.

The Heat rallied early in the fourth, taking advantage of Indiana's 1 for 6 start from the field. When Mike Miller hit back-to-back 3s, the Pacers' lead was down to 70-64 and when James scored on a layup with 5:54 to play, the Heat were within 72-68.

But the run ended abruptly when George hit a 3, Miami's Joel Anthony was called for a loose ball foul on the offensive end and David West grabbed an offensive rebound and scored on a dunk to extend the lead to 77-68. Then came the technical flurry that finished it off.

West scored 11 points and had 14 rebounds despite playing with an upper respiratory infection that prompted Vogel to send him home early from the Pacers' morning shootaround.

He played with a fighter's mentality and gave the Pacers one more shot at the champs.

"We've come too far not to play," West said. "I'm not feeling good now although this win helps. I'm sure I'll be better tomorrow and I'll be ready for Monday."

he missed the green to the left. The wind got him on the 15th when his high fairway metal drifted beyond the bunker and into a hazard that Kuchar didn't know existed, leading to bogey.

He saved par with a 10-foot putt on the par-3 16th, and made regulation pars coming in to give himself the 54-hole lead for the second straight week. He also was atop the leaderboard at Colonial, only to finish second to Boo Weekley.

"If you're not hitting the ball solid, you don't have a chance," Kuchar said.

Rory McIlroy had a 75, and part of him was happy to do that. He was safely inside the cut line when he returned Saturday morning to finish his round, and he birdied the 15th hole. He followed with back-to-back bogeys, and then came up short of the green and had to get up-and-down to avoid missing the cut. He made a 4-foot par save.

Pat Perez and former Masters champion Bubba Watson were among those at 3-under 213, still with a chance but needing some help. Tee times were pushed back for Sunday in case of early storms that might require time to clean up the course.

Perez was asked whether he wanted more wind.

"I'd like it to be dead calm," he said. "But I haven't hit a shot when it's not blowing 40 mph."



DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Matt Kuchar couldn't think of conditions more difficult than Saturday in the Memorial, and he had plenty of evidence.

The swirling wind that made it difficult to pull the right club. Fast greens that led to 65 three PUTTS in the third round alone. And a 44 on the back nine for Tiger Woods, the highest nine-hole score of his professional career.

"I think most of us would tend to be surprised any time Tiger shoots a number like that, but a lot more understandable in these conditions," Kuchar said after hanging on for a 2-under 70 that gave him a two-shot lead.

"If you're not on good form, these conditions are really going to beat you up."

Woods rallied on the front nine to salvage a 79, matching his second-worst score on the PGA Tour. And that wasn't even the highest score on a tough day at Muirfield Village. Jordan Spieth shot 45 on the front nine for an 82, while Zach Johnson and Justin Hicks each had an 81.

Kevin Chappell matched the best round of the day with a 4-under 68, leaving him two shots out of the lead, along with Kyle Stanley, who had a 70. Chappell loves having a chance to win his first PGA Tour event, which isn't to

Kuchar hangs tough and takes lead at Memorial

suggest it was fun getting to that position.

"I guess it's like a prize fighter," Chappell said. "He enjoys winning, but I don't know if he enjoys getting hit that much."

Kuchar was at 8-under 208, among 10 players separated by four shots.

"It was a bit of survival," Kuchar said. "I was fortunate to make a handful of birdies. I think anytime you make a birdie in these conditions, you feel like you're really up on the field here. Most of these holes, you're looking at just getting out with a par."

Woods didn't get away with anything.

Going for his sixth win at the Memorial, and his fourth victory in his last five tournaments, Woods had two double bogeys and a triple bogey on the back nine for a 44, and he did that without a penalty shot.

"The conditions were tough and when I missed it cost me," Woods said through a PGA Tour media official. "I caught the wrong gusts at the wrong time, made a couple bad swings and all in all, it just went the wrong way."

He wound up 16 shots out of the lead. Woods will tee off late Sunday, but on the opposite side of the course in

the two-tee start because of weather.

The tournament was happy just to complete 54 holes with mid-afternoon storms that avoided Muirfield Village.

Bill Haas, the 36-hole leader, ran off three straight bogeys late in his round for a 76, and he wasn't all that upset about it. Haas was still only three shots back, and it wasn't hard to determine that par was a good score.

Like so many other players, Chappell wasn't sure which way the wind was blowing. On the 14th hole, with a wedge in hand from 105 yards, he felt the wind coming into him from the right, yet the flag was blowing in the opposite direction.

"I kept saying, 'Wow, this is tough here.' You hit a good shot and end up in a bad spot," Chappell said. "What can I do? You've just got to keep doing it, put one foot in front of the other and finish each hole."

Past winner Justin Rose had a 71 and joined Haas and Matt Jones (70) at 5-under 211. Masters champion Adam Scott had a 69 and was in the group at 4 under that included Charl Schwartzel, who was within one shot of the lead after completing the second round Saturday morning. The South African bogeyed both par 5s on the back nine

and took double bogey on the 14th. He had a 41 on the back for a 76.

That was still better than Woods, whose round was somewhat of a mystery—not only because the world's No. 1 player was in great form coming into a course where he has won five times, but because he was in good position off the tee. Woods, who started the round on No. 10, missed only one fairway on the back nine.

He took double bogey on the par-3 12th when he was in such a bad spot in the front bunker that he had to play out sideways to the wrong side of a long green, and then he three-putted. On the par-5 15th, he pulled his second shot well to the left, and then took two chips to get onto the putting surface only for the ball to run through the green. He really was fooled on the 18th, with a chip that spun back down the hill and a three-putt from short range.

He had three birdies on the front nine to avoid his worst score as a pro. That was an 81 at another Muirfield—the real one—in the third round of the British Open that cost him his best shot at the calendar Grand Slam in 2002.

Perez was asked whether he wanted more wind.

"I'd like it to be dead calm," he said. "But I haven't hit a shot when it's not blowing 40 mph."

Djokovic's day at the French Open ends in despair



PARIS (AP)—Novak Djokovic's day at the French Open quickly turned from lightheartedness to grief.

After making up for a recent loss to Grigor Dimitrov by beating him 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 to reach the fourth round, the No. 1-ranked Djokovic wowed the center court crowd by addressing them in decent French afterward.

The charm reached its peak when Djokovic pledged to open a Serbian restaurant in Paris one day, drawing a roar of appreciation that could probably be heard all around Roland Garros.

Minutes later, his mood was quite different.

When Djokovic got back to the locker room, his team delivered the news that his first coach, Jelena Gencic, had died earlier Saturday in Belgrade, Serbia, at the age of 76. She coached him for about five years, starting when Djokovic was 6.

It was the second time in a little more than a year that Djokovic has been hit by a personal loss during a tournament.

At the Monte Carlo Masters in April 2012, he learned of his grandfather's death and decided to keep playing, winning his third-round match just hours later. He reached the final there.

On Saturday, word was sent to reporters that Djokovic was too distraught to attend a post-match news conference.

He is scheduled to play his fourth-round match against 16th-seeded Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany on Monday, when seven-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal hopes to celebrate his 27th birthday with a win against 13th-seeded Kei Nishikori.

Before that, Sunday's fourth-round men's matches are: 17-time major



AP Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns against Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov in their third round match at the French Open tennis tournament, at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Saturday, June 1, 2013.

champion Roger Federer against 15th-seeded Gilles Simon, No. 4 David Ferrer against No. 23 Kevin Anderson, No. 6 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga against Viktor Troicki, and No. 11 Nicolas Almagro against No. 32 Tommy Robredo.

The women's matchups Sunday to decide quarterfinal berths are: 15-time major champion Serena Williams against No. 15 Roberta Vinci, 2008 French Open titlist Ana Ivanovic against No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska,

2009 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova against No. 8 Angelique Kerber, and 2012 runner-up Sara Errani against No. 20 Carla Suarez Navarro.

On Saturday, Nadal overcame another sloppy start to get past 27th-seed-



BALTIMORE (AP)—Miguel Cabrera's grand slam capped a

wild fourth inning in which Detroit hit four home runs and Orioles pitcher Jason Hammel was ejected, and the Tigers beat Baltimore 10-3 Saturday to snap a four-game losing streak.

Prince Fielder hit a sixth-inning drive for the Tigers, whose five homers were a season high.

Justin Verlander (7-4) allowed three runs and eight hits in seven innings to win his third straight start.

Indians 5, Rays 0

In Cleveland, Ubaldo Jimenez pitched eight scoreless innings and the Indians beat the Rays.

Jason Giambi and Asdrubal Cabrera hit two-run homers in the game that began about 10 hours following the conclusion of Friday night's contest that ended at 2:53 a.m. Saturday after nearly five hours of rain delays.

Twins 5, Mariners 4

In Minneapolis, Ryan Doumit's two-run triple off closer Tom Wilhelmsen with one out in the ninth inning sent the Twins to a victory over the Mariners.

This was the third blown save of the season for Wilhelmsen (0-1), all in his last four tries. The right-hander pitched a perfect ninth for the save Friday night, but he walked the first three batters he faced a day later after inheriting a 4-2 lead. Josh Willingham followed with a sacrifice fly, and Doumit—who missed

Tigers hit 4 HRs in 8-run 4th, beat Orioles, 10-3

the cycle by a home run—drove in two more for the walkoff win.

Royals 4, Rangers 1, 10 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Robbie Ross hit David Lough with a pitch with the bases loaded to force in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning, and the Royals beat the Rangers.

George Kottaras added a two-run double in the 10th for Kansas City.

Ross (2-1) gave up a leadoff single to Alcides Escobar in the 10th. Eric Hosmer followed with a single and Billy Butler was intentionally walked to load the bases. Ross struck out Mike Moustakas and Lorenzo Cain before Lough came up. Lough was hit on a 2-1 pitch to force in the go-ahead run.

Athletics 4, White Sox 3

In Oakland, Calif., Hector Santiago walked Josh Reddick with the bases loaded and two outs in the 10th inning to force in the winning run and lift the Athletics over the White Sox.

The A's had 16 hits and failed to score after loading the bases with no outs in the ninth before scoring the game-winner off Santiago (1-4).

Red Sox 11, Yankees 1

In New York, Mike Napoli hit a grand slam right after a mound conference, Felix Doubront stifled the Yankees once again and the Red Sox sent New York to its sixth loss in seven games.

Daniel Nava added a three-run homer in the eighth inning that emptied the crowd. Stephen Drew homered in a three-run ninth.

Astros 2, Angels 0

In Anaheim, Calif., Bud Norris dominated the Angels' high-priced lineup for the third time this season with six innings of four-hit ball and Chris Carter hit a two-run homer in the seventh against Jerome Williams, leading the Astros to a victory

over Los Angeles.

Norris (5-4) struck out six, walked three and escaped a bases-loaded jam in the sixth to end a winless streak of three starts—including a six-inning scoreless outing against Kansas City that resulted in a no-decision.

Cardinals 7, Giants 1

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright struck out 10 in his 14th complete game and third this season, and the St. Louis Cardinals completed a day-night doubleheader sweep of the San Francisco Giants with a 7-1 win Saturday night.

Rookie Shelby Miller pitched six-hit ball for seven innings and backup catcher Tony Cruz hit two doubles and drove in a pair of runs for St. Louis in an 8-0 win in the opener.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 6, 10 innings

In Denver, Dexter Fowler's RBI single down the first base line in the 10th inning lifted the Rockies past the Dodgers.

The Rockies got their fourth win this season in their last at-bat, one night after losing to the Dodgers in extra innings.

Brewers 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Jonathan Lucroy homered, Wily Peralta pitched seven strong innings and the Brewers held off a ninth-inning rally for victory over the Phillies.

Logan Schafer went 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles and an RBI for Milwaukee, which won its second straight after finishing May tied for the worst winning percentage (.214) in club history.

Marlins 8, Mets 1

In Miami, Jose Fernandez pitched seven scoreless innings and had two hits with an RBI to help the Marlins past the Mets.

Fernandez (3-3) allowed just three hits and struck out eight to give the Marlins their fourth winning streak of the season. Miami has won two straight games three times and three in a row once.

Braves 2, Nationals 1, 10 innings

In Atlanta, B.J. Upton returned to the lineup with two hits, including a game-ending single in the 10th inning that lifted the Braves to a win over the Nationals.

Upton, hitting only .145 at the start of the game, had been held out of two straight starts by manager Fredi Gon-

ed Fabio Fognini of Italy 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-4.

"I really need to play better," Nadal said. "Otherwise I can go back to Majorca and go fishing."

Elsewhere on Saturday, 35-year-old Tommy Haas of Germany let a record 12 match points slip in the fourth set, then saved a match point in the fifth en route to eliminating big-serving American John Isner 7-5, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-7 (10), 10-8 in 4 hours, 37 minutes.

Nadal looked like he was going to spend a fair bit of time on court, too.

After dropping the opening set in his first two matches, he trailed 4-2, was down a break at 6-5, and looked mighty relieved to win the tiebreaker, which was even at 4-4.

"I played too short, and with mistakes," Nadal said.

The Spaniard is looking to become the first man to win eight titles at the same Grand Slam tournament. He improved to 55-1 at Roland Garros despite committing 40 unforced errors and facing 11 break points.

Fognini showed off his array of spectacular shots, nearly doubling Nadal's total of winners. But the Italian let himself down just as much with some sloppy shots, making 59 unforced errors.

Fognini's eccentricity was summed up in the second game of the second set. After missing an easy forehand at the net, he tossed his racket in the air and tried to kick it with his foot—as if it were a soccer ball.

He missed.

Nishikori, meanwhile, became the first Japanese man in 75 years to reach the French Open's fourth round, beating Frenchman Benoit Paire.

"He's a fantastic player," Nadal said of Nishikori. "He can play very aggressive."

zalez, who hoped the rest would jump-start the center fielder.

Reds 2, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Mike Leake continued his recent run of strong pitching by working six scoreless innings Saturday night as the Reds beat the Pirates.

Leake (5-2) scattered seven hits as the Pirates stranded seven runners during his six innings. He had five strikeouts and one walk. In his last four starts, Leake has gone 3-0 with a 0.27 ERA, allowing only one run in 33 innings.

Diamondbacks 12, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Paul Goldschmidt hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the eighth inning, leading the Diamondbacks to a win over the Cubs.

Arizona starter Ian Kennedy (3-3) allowed four runs on three hits in seven innings and retired 20 of the final 21 batters he faced to help put an end to Chicago's five-game winning streak.

Padres 4, Blue Jays 3

In San Diego, Robbie Erlin won his first major league start after being called up to help a depleted staff, Everth Cabrera had three hits and two RBIs, and the Padres beat the Blue Jays.

Erlin (1-0) was recalled from Triple-A Tucson because scheduled starter Clayton Richard was forced to pitch two innings in relief in the Padres' 17-inning, 4-3 win that began Friday night and ended early Saturday.

Tinian Triathlon set for June 22

The 13th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim will be staged in the blue waters and under the blue skies of the Northern Mariana Islands on June 22, 2013.

The triathlon will feature a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40km bike, and 10 km run, while the reef swim will offer three courses: 1.5 km, 3.0 km, and 4.5 km.

"Over the last year or so, we've seen a tremendous increase in the number of bikers visiting Tinian. We hope many of them will team up with runners and swimmers to join this year's Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "One of the real beauties of the event is that there is no time limit, so everyone who comes can have the satisfaction of completing the race without being disqualified because of time."

The event is co-sponsored by the MVA, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan,



The 13th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim will be held on June 22, 2013.

Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Registration costs are: \$80 for solo triathletes, \$60/each for triathlon teams of two or three members, and \$60 for reef swim only (all distances). Registration fee includes the awards party on event day, a commemorative T-shirt, and swim cap.

Registration will be held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino poolside on June 21 from 5pm to 8pm, with the mandatory pre-race briefing from 6pm

to 7pm at the same venue. Cash payment only.

Registration forms and course maps are downloadable under the event date at the Calendar of Events at www.mymarianas.com.

The awards banquet will be held on June 22, 2013, 6pm at Taga Beach. For more information or to register, contact Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 433-9365 or Frank Tudela at ftudela@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LADY

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of the competition (from the 2008 to 2011) before losing to Kagman High School in the 2011-2012 finale.

With the 2012-2013 title and bragging rights at stake in last weekend's finals, both MHS and Southern played all out to the delight of the sizeable crowd.

The Lady Dolphins relied on solid offense in the first two innings, highlighted by a grand slam from second baseman Ursula Lizama at the bottom of the second. MHS connected on nine hits in the first two innings, eight of them came with Cathy Amandus on the mound for the Lady Rays. Amandus struggled early on, as she pitched inconsistently, throwing a laser at one point and then slowing down on the next play. Annaliza Blas relieved

Amandus with MHS ahead 8-0, but the former returned to second base quickly and the latter was back on the mound after Lizama's grand slam.

Amandus got her second wind and soon Southern also began hitting its target. A two-run triple from Blas at the top of the third inning sparked the Lady Rays' rally, while Amandus and the rest of Southern's defense held on, limiting MHS to three runs in the next four innings. The Lady Dolphins loaded the bases three times (fourth to sixth inning), but runners were left stranded, as Southern this time was quick to catch fly balls.

On offense, after Blas' two RBIs, she also made it home and Southern tucked on three more runs to move within four, 8-12, after two and a half innings. The Lady Rays continued their recovery in the next three innings and finally grabbed the lead, 16-15, with Jenny Scalliew hitting a

single, stealing second and third, and reaching home off a wild pitch at the top of the sixth inning.

With Southern ahead, going into one full inning, spectators were up on their feet, as a Lady Rays win would have forced another game, which would have been played today because the sun had started to set in at the unlighted pitch. MHS had a twice-to-beat advantage in the championship duel after going undefeated in the playoffs, but the anticipated Game 2 did not push through, as the Dolphins closed out the finals in an anticlimactic fashion.

MHS got the three needed outs and left a runner stranded at first at the top of the seventh, leaving Southern with a shaky one-run lead. Then at the bottom of the last, MHS leadoff batter Janna Lizama went down on a 1-3 putout play, while Amandus walked second batter Florita Billy, who later

Mayweather announces Alvarez fight on Twitter



LAS VEGAS (AP)—Floyd Mayweather will fight young Mexican star Canelo Alvarez on Sept. 14 at the MGM Grand.

"I chose my opponent for September 14th and it's Canelo Alvarez," Mayweather said Wednesday night on Twitter. "I'm giving the fans what they want. It will be at the MGM Grand."

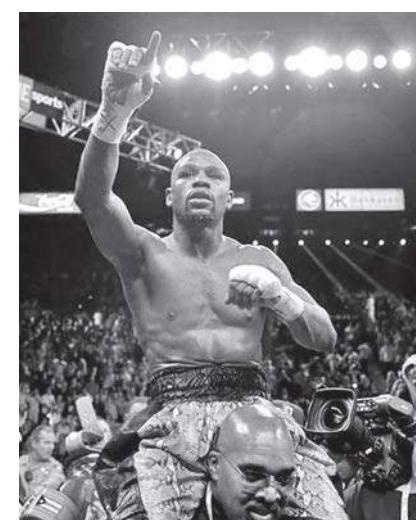
Alvarez sent a tweet in Spanish announcing the fight.

The 36-year-old Mayweather is unbeaten in 44 fights, the last a unanimous 12-round decision over Robert Guerrero on May 4 at the MGM Grand in defense of his WBC welterweight title fight.

Alvarez is 42-0-1. The 22-year-old fighter unified the WBC and WBA super welterweight titles April 20 in San Antonio with a unanimous victory over Austin Trout.

The fight will be contested at a catch weight of 152 pounds (69 kilograms) and offers a rare bout between two unbeaten fighters in their primes.

"Floyd has said from Day 1 that he wants to give fans the best fight out there and here it is," Mayweather's co-



Floyd Mayweather Jr. reacts to fans as he sits atop the shoulders of Leonard Ellerbe after defeating Robert Guerrero during a WBC welterweight title fight, Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Las Vegas.

manager, Leonard Ellerbe, told the AP. "We have the two biggest stars in the sport and they're fighting each other Sept. 14."

The bout will be the second in Mayweather's six-fight, 30-month contract with Showtime that could pay him more than \$200 million.

Sabrina Pangelinan scored for the winning run.

The win was MHS second for the weekend against Southern, as the Lady Dolphins also downed the Lady Rays in the winner's bracket semis, 8-5, to clinch the first finals berth. MHS also defeated Kagman Black, 6-5, in its first playoff game.

After losing to MHS, Southern, which advanced to the semis after a 13-12 victory over Kagman White, was pitted against Kagman Black and nailed a 16-7 win to get another crack at MHS. Southern played the finals only 20 minutes after its semis victory and the well-rested MHS crew capitalized on its tired foe to take the early lead before the Lady Rays launched a comeback and fell short in the end.

Meanwhile, Tinian High School and Mt. Carmel School also joined the double-elimination playoffs, but were both ousted early.

Scoring by quarters: 24-18, 41-34, 58-57, 76-65.

Second Game

Camor 58 – Aranda 15, Litulumar 11, Factor 11, Espinosa 8, Galulu 7, Yap 2, Ibanez .

Sexy Boys 57 – Francisco 21, Manglona 13, Maranan 6, Caro 6, Tinio 2, Sablan 2, Wood 2, Rosario 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-14, 36-27, 46-44, 58-57.

CAMOR

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them in the final canto, as he and Factor kept their team in the game against the surging Sexy Boys. Factor scored 6 straight points in the fourth period.

The Sexy Boys came back from a double-digit deficit in the second quarter and even managed to take a 57-56 lead off Eugene Manglona's basket in the closing

seconds before committing a defensive meltdown on Litulumar in the paint.

With the win, Camor set up a quarterfinal showdown against Flip Top this Wednesday at 6pm.

In the first game in the playoffs, San Roque got off to a strong start and withstood Chinatown's third-quarter rally to march into the next round and challenge Freestyle this Wednesday at 8pm.

San Roque led by as many as 12 points in the second period, 34-22, be-

fore Chinatown turned the tables in the third, taking a 5-point cushion, 55-50. Five straight points from Angelo Fernando in the closing minute of the third brought the lead back to San Roque, 58-57, and Chinatown never recovered, as it was contented trading shots with its foes in the final canto.

Back-to-back layups from Ali Guiang sealed the deal for San Roque, 74-63, going into to last one minute of the match.

Fernando led San Roque with his 28

points, while Guiang added 20. They had 8 markers apiece in the first canto to help San Roque dictate the tempo of the game early on and force Chinatown to play catch up.

First Game

San Roque 76 – Fernando 28, Guiang 20, Mc. Achas 14, Gapor 8, Mi. Achas 2.

Chinatown 65 – Norita 16, Zapanta 15, Quizon 12, Mancao 12, Lapuz 8.

KALAYAAN

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elimination playoffs, which will start on Saturday. Kalayaan advanced to the next round with PSS/Hoopaholics (6-3), DFS (6-3), Dollar Days (5-3), Mobil (5-3), Docomo (5-3), Shirley's (5-4) and Mariana Resort (3-6), which got a free win via forfeit against Dollar Days in last Saturday's first game. Saipan Apparel was eliminated with its 2-7 slate, joining Kanoa Resort (2-6) in an early vacation.

Saipan Apparel remained afloat in

the majority of the important match, but went on to drop the match, as it employed a half-baked full court pressure defense on Kalayaan in the last six minutes of the fourth canto and the plan backfired.

Kalayaan wisely brought quarterback Roger Hernandez back in the game to take care of the ball and the rest of his teammates were quick enough to avoid being jammed by Saipan Apparel defenders. Kalayaan countered the ineffective Saipan Apparel pressure defense with a pivotal 12-5 run in a span of about two minutes, turning a precarious 68-64 lead to a double-digit

advantage, 80-49. Lorio Pagarao led the rally, scoring 8 points and making two triples.

Kalayaan never looked back from thereon with Juan Camacho finishing what Pagarao started, drilling 6 straight markers in the last two minutes of the match.

Pagarao top-scored for Kalayaan with his 28 points, while Camacho added 16, and Rocy Ritual and Roger Herrera also had twin digits, posting 14 and 11 markers, respectively.

Ed Diaz led Saipan Apparel with his 27 points. However 12 of them came early in the first quarter and he

could not hit baskets in succession in the second half, leaving a void in the already depleted offensive game of Saipan Apparel, which was without key player Pete Lizama.

With Lizama out and only Diaz hitting more than one field goal in the first period, Kalayaan took a 25-18 lead after the 10 minutes of play. Diaz then found some help in the second canto with Jerome Norita and Syl Teregeyo combining for 12 points to force a standoff at halftime, 43-all.

Kalayaan regained the upper hand in the third, 64-58, with Rocy Ritual coming off the bench and scoring

8 markers off his patented banked shot in that quarter alone. Then in the fourth quarter, Kalayaan kept pushing, toying around the unsuccessful pressure defense of Saipan Apparel.

Kalayaan 94 – Pagarao 28, Camacho 16, Ritual 14, Herrera 11, Lorio 10, Rog. Hernande 4, Roy. Hernandez 4, Rejano 3, Caro 2.

Saipan Apparel 81 – Diaz 27, Bautista 15, Norita 11, Teregeyo 10, Sablan 5, Guerrero 5, Barrazo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-18, 43-43, 64-58, 94-81.

The Week in Sports

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers led the winners circle in last week's competitions.

The Brewers ruled the 2013 Saipan Baseball League after beating the IP&E Fielders in the best-of-five title series, 3-1. The Brewers clinched the championship after a 12-5 victory over the Fielders in Game 4 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios.

Joining the Brewers in Cloud 9 were Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan swimmers, bowlers in the 31st CNMI-SBC May Masters Tournament, McDonald's, Talaabwogh Falcons, and Hong Kong and Japanese tennis players.

SSC's Victoria Chentsova won the female division of the 23rd International Invitational Cocos Crossing 2.5-miler in Guam, while her teammates Taiga Sato and Lennosuke Suzuki had a 1-2 finish in the 9 to 10 age group and Colin Thompson topped the 40 to 49 division.

Five Tsunami Saipan swimmers got high-point awards in the 2013 Guam Championships held at the Hagatna Pool. The list includes Sophia Gauran, Kensuke Kimura, Miku Tammy, and siblings Hiroto and Ryuto Yanai.

In bowling, Robert Talavera and Diana Camacho claimed the men's and women's crowns in the May Masters with the latter getting back-to-back championships and the former ending a three-year slide.

Also winning in the May Masters were the quartet of Raul Dumapit, Percy Omechelang, Paul Pangelinan, and Alex Castro and the foursome of Elena Soll, Yho Villavicencio, Lala Taitano, and Tess Fabie, who prevailed in the team event.

McDonald's and the Falcons advanced to the championship game in the Major division of the Saipan Little League Baseball after ousting the Pinnacle Rockies and JPO Enforcers, respectively.

In tennis, Hong Kong's Anthony Jackie Tang won the men's singles title in the T&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships, while Japan's Mei Otsuka ruled the women's category. Otsuka also clinched the doubles crown with compatriot Yuri Kata-no, while another Japanese Ken-nosuke Nouchi teamed up with Hong Kong's Chak Yin Chan to nab the men's doubles plum.

Meanwhile, other ongoing competitions on Saipan continued with the DLX and Shirley's basketball leagues entering the homestretch of its regular season and the Masters caging starting its playoff round.

While the various basketball leagues are moving to a close, a badminton tournament has just started with Northern Marianas Badminton Association opening the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament last week.

Brewers lead winners list



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

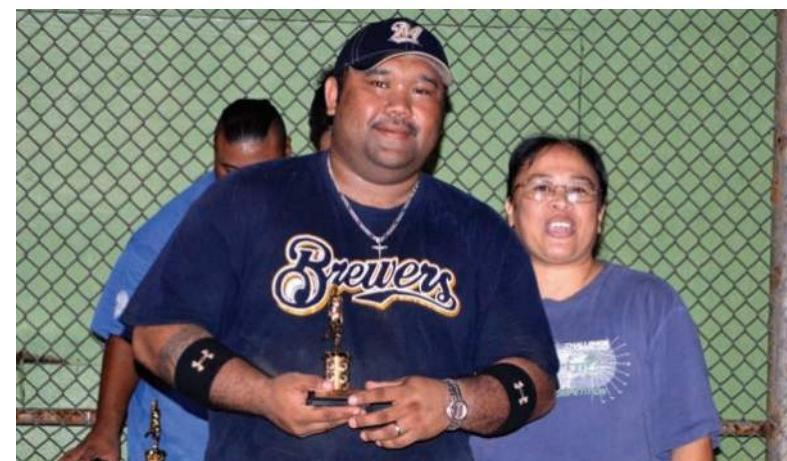
Participants in the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament pose for a group photo after the opening ceremony last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Docomo's Elgene Mangali goes up for a shot against three Kalayaan, Inc. defenders during their game in the Shirley's caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Left, batting champion Manny Sablan of the Tan Holdings Brewers, left, is joined by TSL Foundation manager Maggie Sablan during the awards presentation for the 2013 Saipan Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Left, Robert Talavera, left, and Alex Castro, pose with their doubles trophies and other prizes during the awards ceremony for the 31st CNMI-SBC May Masters Tournament last week at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club swimmers and coach Jacoby Winkfield, back row right, pose for a photo after the 23rd International Invitational Cocos Crossing in the waters off Merizo Pier in Agana, Guam, last week.



PACERS even up series with 91-77 win over Heat

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Djokovic's day at the French Open ends in despair



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lady Dolphins top fast-pitch league



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School players and their coaching staff pose with their championship trophy after beating Saipan Southern High School, 17-16, in the finals of the 2012-2013 MISO Girls Fast-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School edged Saipan Southern High School, 17-16, in the finals of the 2012-2013 MISO Girls Fast-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

Kalayaan clinches playoff berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Kalayaan secured a playoff ticket in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League after beating Saipan Apparel, 94-81, last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Kalayaan finished the round-robin regular season with a 4-5 record and will be seeded seventh in the single-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kalayaan, Inc.'s Lerio Pagarrao drives baseline and rams into the defense of Saipan Apparel's Mike Babauta during the fourth quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Two RBI walks in the bottom of the seventh inning gave the Lady Dolphins to their first fast-pitch softball crown in MISO and foiled the Lady Rays' bid to regain the championship. Southern dominated the first three seasons

See LADY on Page 26

Camor, San Roque oust foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Camor and San Roque Bandits eliminated separates foes in the opening round of the playoffs in the 2013 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In the first game, San Roque outclassed Chinatown, 76-65, while Camor survived the Sexy Boys, 58-57, in the second game to march into the quarterfinals.

Fred Litulumar canned the game-winning basket for Camor, while Herbert Maranan missed a layup at the buzzer, ending the Sexy Boys' season. Credit half of Litulumar's field goal to Prince Factor, who made the play happen, as he drove strong to the basket, drew Sexy Boys defenders and then dropped a pass to Litulumar.

After the crucial basket from Camor's big man, the Sexy Boys were left with nine seconds to orchestrate a play and with the clock ticking, Maranan took matters on his own hands and drove the left baseline. However, Camor defenders challenged his layup, which fell short as time expired.

The game-winning basket in the fourth quarter was Litulumar's lone field goal in the second half and he finished with 11 markers. Jack Aranda paced Camor with his 15 points, making 5 of

See CAMOR on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
San Roque Bandits' Angelo Fernando pulls up for a jumper against Chinatown's Michael Manca during the first quarter of their playoff game in the DLX caging last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.